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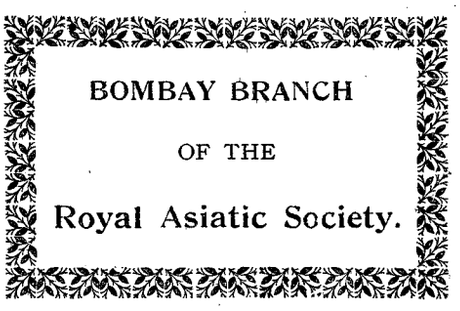

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF

BIHAR AND ORISSA

133058

1916-1917

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Patna:

THE BIHAR AND ORISSA SECRETARIAT BOOK DEPÔT

1918

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PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

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ADMINISTRATION OF BIHAR AND ORISSA, 1916-17.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

1. The Hon'ble Sir Edward Albert Gait, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., held charge as Lieutenant-Governor throughout the year.

HEADQUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT AND LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S TOURS.

2. The headquarters of the Government were located at Ranchi until the 10th November and at Patna during the remainder of the year. **Headquarters of Government.**

3. On the 31st March Sir Edward Gait left Ranchi on a visit to Puri where he stayed till the 20th April. In July His Honour visited Purulia, Dhanbad, Naya Dumka, Patna, Gaya and Hazaribagh, and at the beginning of August a short visit was paid to Simla. **Tours.**

On the 25th November the Lieutenant-Governor left Patna for a tour in the Sambalpur district, where a Darbar was held. After visiting the Feudatory State of Rairakhol His Honour returned to Patna on the 3rd December. Later in the same month His Honour visited Kodarma, and returned through Gaya to Patna.

During February the Lieutenant-Governor visited the Muzaffarpur and Palamau Districts. On the 3rd March His Honour left Patna for a tour in Singhbhum, in the course of which visits were made to the Tata Iron and Steel Works at Sakchi and the Cape Copper Company's Works at Rakha. His Honour also opened the bridge over the Baitarani river on the boundary between Singhbhum and the Keonjhar State. His Honour returned to Patna on the 7th March.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

4. The Hon'ble Sir Edward Levinge, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., was Vice-President of the Executive Council and the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Sir Rameshwara Singh, G.C.I.E., of Darbhanga, Member of Council throughout the year. The Hon'ble Mr. W. Maude, C.S.I., was temporary Member of the Council from the beginning of the year to the return of the Hon'ble Sir William Vincent, Kt., from deputation in September. Sir William Vincent proceeded on leave in December and the temporary vacancy was again filled by Mr. Maude. **Executive Council.**

Indian and Provincial Civil Services.

5. A temporary appointment in the 3rd grade of Magistrates and Collectors was sanctioned for the post of the Additional Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum and continued throughout the year. Two posts were added to the cadre of the Provincial Executive Service to provide for a second Deputy Magistrate in Dhanbad and to strengthen the headquarters staff in the district of Patna. The maximum number of Sub-Judges who may be appointed Assistant Sessions Judges at one time was raised from three to five and a further temporary increase up to twelve was sanctioned by the Government of India after the close of the year. Eighteen appointments in the Provincial Executive Service were abolished with effect from the 1st October as a result of the constitution of a separate service for the Excise and Salt Department.

Legislative Council.

6. The term of office of the Additional Members of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council expired on April 16th. The elections for the new Council were held in May. The Lieutenant-Governor nominated eighteen Members of whom fourteen were officials.

Exercise of powers.

7. The Deputy Commissioners of Hazaribagh and Palamau were instructed to utilize their powers under section 30 of the Code of Criminal Procedure as freely as possible with a view to relieving the Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpur of the less important criminal work.

Delegation of powers.

8. The Local Government delegated to the Patna High Court the power to confer upon any Munsif jurisdiction to try suits not exceeding Rs. 2,000 in value and to confer upon Sub-Judges and Munsifs the jurisdiction of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes.

STATES HAVING DIRECT POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR AND ORISSA.

Transfer of the control of the States of Seraikela and Kharsawan.

9. The States of Seraikela and Kharsawan have been under the direct control of the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum subject to the supervision of the Commissioner of Chota Nagpur since 1854 when the South-Western Frontier Agency was abolished. At the request of their Chiefs, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council decided that these two States should be placed under the supervision of the Political Agent of the Orissa Feudatory States, and the sanction of the Government of India was obtained to this change. Geographical considerations render it impossible at present to transfer them also to the Orissa Division.

Release of the Rairakhol State.

10. The State of Rairakhol was released from Government management on the young Chief attaining his majority. The ceremony of his investiture was performed by the Lieutenant-Governor at a Darbar in Sambalpur.

Contribution to war funds.

11. The Chiefs of the Orissa States continued to take the keenest interest in the war and showed their patriotism and loyalty by large monetary contributions as well as by public prayers and thanksgivings. At the personal request of the minor Maharaja, the Mayurbhanj State contributed Rs. 27,000 for an aeroplane and Rs. 12,000 for a motor ambulance. The Chief of Dhenkanal presented a motor ambulance and the Chief of Bamra contributed Rs. 19,500 to various war purposes. The Maharaja of Sonpur organized a fund for the purchase of two aeroplanes to which various States contributed.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

12. There was a shortage of crops amounting to scarcity in the Kolhan Government Estate in Singhbhum and in a small part of the Puri District. The *bhadai* crops in Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur and Monghyr, and the *bhadai* and *aghani* crops in Darbhanga were somewhat severely damaged by floods but excellent *rabi* crops were harvested in all these districts. Elsewhere throughout the Province, the crops were good and the condition of the labouring classes showed an improvement.

The year was generally healthy, though there were sporadic outbreaks of cholera and small-pox in Orissa, and more severe outbreaks of cholera in parts of Muzaffarpur and Champaran and of plague in Bhagalpur and Monghyr.

FAMINE AND FLOODS.

13. The distress in the Kolhan Government Estate in the district of Singhbhum continued as the result of deficient and unevenly distributed rainfall. From May to September the average number of persons relieved daily on test-works was about 10,000 and gratuitous relief was distributed from July to September. Relief operations were suspended in November but were resumed again on a smaller scale in March 1917 in the northern part.

In a small area on the Chilka lake in the Puri district the failure of the rice crop, owing to drought in August, necessitated the opening of test-works and the distribution of gratuitous relief on a small scale. Remissions and suspensions of rent were also granted by the Parikud Wards Estate and the Khurda Government Estate.

Floods of varying intensity occurred in all the Bihar districts except Gaya and the Santal Parganas. Very few lives were lost but a considerable number of cattle were drowned. In the Patna and Tirhut Divisions, the damage to crops was confined to the *bhadai* crops and the succeeding *rabi* and rice crops were excellent. Communications in Darbhanga were somewhat severely damaged. Bhagalpur District suffered from two floods; the Kosi and its tributaries caused considerable damage to *bhadai* crops in July, and in the first week of September the rise of the Ganges submerged several villages in the southern part of the district and damaged the *makai* crop, though here also the people were compensated by bumper *rabi* crops. This flood also injured the later *bhadai* crops in two thanas of Monghyr and a second rise of the river, three weeks later, did much harm to *aghani* crops on the *diara* lands. The Gandak flood in September did some damage to the rice crop in the north of the Begusarai Subdivision, while the Kamla-Demra floods caused considerable damage both to the *bhadai* and *aghani* crops. In Purnea the damage to roads and bridges was more serious than the damage to crops.

Throughout the affected areas the distress was relieved by loans and temporary gratuitous relief and no regular relief works were necessary.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALIZATION OF REVENUE.

Revenue and Cess.

14. The current demand of land revenue rose by nearly Rs. 33,000, the increase being derived from estates held direct by Government.

There was an increase of nearly Rs. 2¼ lakhs in the cess demand which was due to revaluation operations in four districts and to the assessment at full rates of Government Estates.

Levy of Cess on Railway Collieries.

15. Since the close of the year the Government of India have accepted the Local Government's recommendation that railways should be required to pay local cess on their profits from collieries.

Kanungos.

16. District Kanungos were admitted to the new time-scale of pay, and revised rules for their qualifications and training were issued.

SURVEYS.

Traverse Surveys.

17. Traverse Survey of 610 square miles in the district of Manbhum was completed during the year. In addition to this 17 miscellaneous petty surveys were undertaken and completed.

Bihar and Orissa Drawing Office.

18. The Imperial Standard Mapping Section was employed on the drawing of fair originals on the 2-inch and 1½-inch scales for reduction to the inch scale, as well as on completion of margins and the insertion of hills on such sheets already published as are not complete in this respect.

In the provincial section, in addition to the completion of 32 Thana maps and 23 special Ganges Diara maps, the half-inch map of the Patna District and the skeleton district map of the Santal Parganas on a scale of 8 miles to the inch were completed.

LAND RECORDS AND SETTLEMENT.

General.

19. Settlement operations were in progress in six districts. Three Civilian Officers were in charge of the Major Settlements in South Bihar, Chota Nagpur and North Bihar. The area cadastrally surveyed in original and revisional operations was 1,740 square miles and the rents of 84,972 tenants were settled.

South Bihar. Gaya.

20. In Gaya the year's programme consisted of the disposal of cases under sections 105 and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, settlement of rent in Government and temporarily-settled estates under Revenue Settlement, and recovery of costs. The question of commutation of produce-rents under section 40 of the Bengal Tenancy Act is of special importance in this district. All such applications are now made over to the Collector for disposal, and there are 12,000 cases to be disposed of on the completion of the Settlement operations. The recovery of costs has been very successful; and of a total of Rs. 8¼ lakhs less than 3 per cent is still outstanding.

Chota Nagpur. Hazaribagh.

21. In Hazaribagh fair rent settlement was almost completed. The total cost of all the operations is about Rs. 17,13,000.

Palamau.

22. The most important part of the programme in Palamau was the attestation and draft publication of 1,147 square miles surveyed last season and the disposal of objections under sections 83 (1) and 111 (*b*) of the Chota Nagpur

Tenancy Act in the area under attestation. This work was exceptionally difficult and progress was slow for several reasons. False claims were numerous, few landlords kept reliable collection papers and rent-receipts were seldom given. Rents are in many cases extremely high and the tenants have been powerless to oppose the exactions of the landlords or bring them to the notice of the authorities. The general settlement of fair rents recently ordered by the Local Government will, it is hoped, provide an opportunity for framing a record securing to the tenant his rights in the holding on payment of a reasonable rent.

The Kolhan Government Estate.

23. The whole programme of Singhbhum was completed. The total cost of all operations up to the 3rd September is about Rs. 3,20,000 and Rs. 33,000 will be required to bring the operations to a close. Fair rents are to be settled for the whole estate under section 85 (2) (*ii*) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act. The rates of rent proposed were settled after consultation with the Deputy Commissioner and have been approved by Government. Fair rents were settled in three villages as a test case, and rent schedules have been prepared for the whole area. The fair rent settlement will be completed next season.

North Bihar Revision Settlement.

24. In North Bihar the operations comprised preliminary record-writing and attestation in Saran and Final Publication, case work and recovery of costs in Champaran.

Saran.

25. The work in the Saran district was extremely easy. The old record is a living force, and the greater part of the area under attestation is under the Hathwa Estate, the management of which is in all respects satisfactory. Rents have remained practically unchanged since the last settlement and very few cases of illegal enhancement came to light.

Champaran.

26. The case work in Champaran under sections 40, 105 and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act assumed unprecedented proportions, but few new problems arose for decision. The special Judge upheld the decisions of the settlement courts in their use of section 35 of the Bengal Tenancy Act in preference to section 32. The question of what constitutes a fair rent for tenancies recorded as *kabil-lagan* was of importance. The Bettiah Estate claimed comparatively high rates in all cases, but the special Judge agreed with the view taken by the Settlement Officers, who took the average incidence of rent in the villages as the basis of assessment and allowed from 2 to 4 annas in the rupee over this average on the ground of a rise in prices.

WARDS AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Number and management.

27. Seven new estates were taken under management and six were released. At the close of the year, 155 estates were under management, of which 99 were managed under the provisions of the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act. The total expenditure on schools, dispensaries and charities exceeded three lakhs of rupees, of which the Bettiah Estate contributed nearly two lakhs and a half. The expenditure on improvements showed a decrease of over one lakh. Instructions have been issued emphasizing the importance of making full use of the allotments for improvements.

Audit.

28. On the recommendation of the Board of Revenue orders were issued that the accounts of all wards and encumbered estates should be subject to

professional audit irrespective of their gross incomes. Previously the accounts of estates with a current rent and cess demand of less than Rs. 50,000 were not audited by the local Audit Department without special orders in each case. The smaller estates will now be audited in alternate years and the larger ones annually.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Working of the Tenancy Acts.

29. The Revision Settlement operations in Champaran have shown that the sections of the Bengal Tenancy Act which deal with the cultivation of special crops on behalf of the landlords are difficult to interpret and require amendment, and that legislation is needed to prevent the collection of *abwab*.

The Orissa Tenancy Act has considerably improved the status of the tenant class and restricted the extra-legal powers of landlords. The question of amending the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, to prevent fictitious surrenders of holdings and to remove other defects is under contemplation.

Reluctance is still shown by some landlords to grant proper rent-receipts free of charge, especially in the case of produce-rents.

Relations between landlords and tenants were, on the whole, satisfactory. In the Patna Division, however, there is considerable friction as the result of the recent settlement operations. In Champaran it has been found necessary to appoint a special committee to inquire into the agrarian conditions of that district.

In the Chota Nagpur Division jungle rights are a source of dispute, and in Palamau relations are very strained as a result of the Settlement operations.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

30. The Bihar and Orissa General Clauses Act, 1917, was passed into law.

POLICE.

Staff.

31. Two posts of Superintendent were added to the cadre, one for the second Assistant to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Crime and Railways, and one for the new Railway Police district. The sanction of the Secretary of State was received to the proposals for improving the emoluments of the subordinate ranks of the District and Military Police and for increasing the strength of the Armed Reserve. Full effect cannot be given to the orders at present, but the pay of over a thousand constables has been raised by Re. 1 a month, while 2,381 constables are now in receipt of an additional allowance of the same amount. Nine additional officers including those deputed to Labour Corps were allowed to join the military forces of the Empire.

Discipline.

32. The discipline of the force was good on the whole; the number of rewards increased, but a slight decrease in judicial punishments was accompanied by an increase in departmental punishments. Out of 88 criminal charges against the police 60 were declared false or dismissed. There were 5 convictions, relating to two Sub-Inspectors, six constables and one Dafadar.

33. The first case in which a Bihari was accused of political crime of the modern form occurred during the year. A youth named Raghubir Prashad Singh was convicted under section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code for circulating seditious leaflets and was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment. **Political Crime.**

34. There were 179 dacoities of which 68 occurred in Manbhum. Preventive measures have been taken, as described in a later paragraph. A gang of Karwals who attacked and escaped from their escort was suspected of being responsible for no less than 11 dacoities in various parts of the Province. **Professional Crime.**

35. The number of offences against property which was exceptionally high in the previous year fell to a normal figure. There were 44 cases of rioting or unlawful assembly of which 28 involved loss of life. **Ordinary Crime.**

36. The Criminal Tribes' Act, 1911, has been extended to a gang of Musahars in Shahabad, to a gang of Dusadhs in Bhagalpur and to seven gangs of semi-aboriginals in Manbhum. The activities of the Manbhum gangs extended to Bankura in Bengal and the Government of that Presidency also took action against some of them under the Criminal Tribes Act. **Criminal Tribes.**

37. The charge of the East Indian Railway in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa was formerly held by a Superintendent of the Bengal Police stationed at Howrah. The charge was too heavy for one officer and it was also inconvenient that his jurisdiction should extend over two provinces. It has accordingly been divided into two. The division follows the provincial boundary except as regards a small section of the Loop line. It is intended that the headquarters of the new Railway Police district will ultimately be at Jamalpur, but for the present owing to the difficulty of obtaining accommodation at that place they have been located at Dinapore. **Jurisdiction.**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

38. There were 93,648 criminal cases reported which is 4,381 less than in 1915. The number of complaints dismissed or found to be false was 23 per cent of the total. Of these 57,769 were brought to trial including 632 committed or referred to the Sessions Courts. There was a satisfactory increase in disposals by Honorary Magistrates, while there was little variation in the amount of criminal work done by Sessions Judges and by District and other Stipendiary Magistrates. In trials before Magistrates, 91,135 persons were accused of whom 49·3 per cent were convicted; in Sessions trials, 1,609 persons were concerned, of whom 58·6 per cent were convicted. **Offences and Trials.**

39. A circular was issued to the Commissioners of Divisions emphasizing the necessity of periodical inspection by them of Magistrates' offices and calling their attention to the previous orders on the subject. **Inspection.**

JAILS.

40. The health of the jail population showed serious deterioration especially at the Bhagalpur Central Jail and the Monghyr Juvenile Jail. There has been in recent years a steady growth of mortality from tuberculosis. Measures are now being taken for the segregation and special treatment of convicts suffering from this disease. **Haalth.**

41. Proposals have been submitted to the Government of India for improving the prospects of warders and for an increase in the Jailor, staff. The pay and prospects of the Medical Subordinate staff have been considerably improved. **Staff.**

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Suits and Trials.

42. The number of suits instituted was 169,314, an increase of 5,811 over the previous year. The increase was most marked in Muzaffarpur, Saran and Shahabad, where it was due to various local causes. There was a general decrease in the duration of suits decided by Munsifs and District Judges but an increase in the duration of suits disposed of by Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges. The number of original suits and appeals pending in all courts was reduced during the year.

Law Officers.

43. The Government Advocate was appointed to be the Public Prosecutor in the Patna High Court and the Government Pleader of Cuttack was appointed *ex-officio* Public Prosecutor and Government Pleader of the Cuttack Circuit Court. The Local Government issued rules prescribing the duties of, and fees payable to, the Law Officers of Government.

Law Reports.

44. The temporary arrangements made for the publication by the Patna Law Press of a non-official series of Law Reports subsidized by Government and supervised by the High Court will be continued up to the end of March 1921 when the position will be further considered.

Inspector of Judicial offices.

45. The sanction of the Secretary of State was received to the permanent retention of the post of Inspector of Judicial offices personal to the present incumbent. The services of this officer are shared between the Governments of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa and the Administration of Assam.

Legal Education.

46. A committee of Legal Education was constituted for conducting examinations of candidates for examination as Pleaders and Mukhtars in Bihar and Orissa.

REGISTRATION.

Statistics.

47. The number of documents registered was 494,023, a decrease of over 40,000 on the record figures of the previous year. There is some indication that in areas where Co-operative Societies are obtaining a firm hold, there is a decrease of registration of documents for the purpose of obtaining loans.

Staff and Administration.

48. A temporary post of second Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Registration was created involving an additional post in the third grade of district Sub-Registrars. Orders were issued that as a general rule, a Sub-Registrar should not be posted to the district in which his home is or in which he possesses landed property. Probationers, however, continue to be ordinarily posted to their home districts on their first appointment. A revised procedure was laid down for maintaining contract contingent registers in registration offices with a view to minimizing the chances of embezzlements.

Departmental Examination.

49. The proposal to have a departmental examination for Sub-Registrars was accepted by Government in 1914 and the rules as finally approved were notified during the year. All probationers and Sub-Registrars appointed direct to higher grades are now required to pass an examination in the laws and rules which concern registering officers and in two languages.

MUNICIPALITIES.

Municipalities.

50. The total income of all municipalities fell by slightly over one lakh and the expenditure by nearly Rs. 90,000. The following large grants were made by Government :—Rs. 2,10,000 to the Patna City Municipality, Rs. 45,460 to Gaya, Rs. 18,800 to Ranchi and Rs. 7,000 to Sahibganj. Progress in municipal improvements is necessarily slow at present, when

Government are unable to render financial assistance on so large a scale as before the war, and materials for water-supply and drainage works are only obtainable, if at all, at prohibitive prices.

51. A new Municipal Bill has been prepared and circulated to public associations for opinion. Revised rules for municipal elections were introduced with the object of preserving the secrecy of the ballot and checking corrupt practices. **Legislation and Rules.**

DISTRICT BOARDS.

52. Three new Unions were constituted. The income of all District Boards was about 3½ lakhs more than in the previous year while the expenditure was nearly 7 lakhs less. Closing balances were unusually heavy as, owing to the high prices of materials, many projects which had been budgeted for were postponed. Five Boards invested over 2½ lakhs out of their balances in Indian War Loan Bonds. There was a decrease in the total expenditure on education of Rs. 89,000 but all the Boards spent at least the minimum prescribed by Government. **District Boards.**

There was a decrease of nearly Rs. 68,000 in the total expenditure on Medical relief and Sanitation ; this was distributed over seven districts, in four of which the previous year's expenditure was abnormally high. The minimum expenditure prescribed by Government under these heads was exceeded by all Boards except four.

The number of dispensaries maintained by District Boards rose from 141 to 154, and that of aided dispensaries from 79 to 88.

MARINE.

53. Ninety vessels entered the Ports in Orissa against 126 in 1915-16. The total value of trade, both export and import, was Rs. 26,26,000 against Rs. 32,55,000 in the previous year. The decrease is attributed to the general depression of trade caused by the war.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE.

54. The work at the Agricultural stations and farms was mainly experimental, though some useful demonstration work was done in Orissa. The policy of the Department was re-examined and it was decided to concentrate on the main crops of the area served by each farm. The system of disseminating practical agricultural knowledge through the agency of *Kamdars* has been expanded with satisfactory results in the Orissa, Bhagalpur and Patna Divisions. **Agricultural Stations.**

55. The increase recorded last year in the number of students in the Sabour College did not continue and the percentage of passes has been disappointing. A scheme has now been sanctioned under which a selected number of boys having a fair knowledge of English and elementary Mathematics are to undergo a year's preliminary training on the Agricultural farms before admission to the college. **Agricultural Education.**

Well-boring.

56. Owing to the success which has attended the experimental well-borings in Bihar, it has been decided to extend the operations to Orissa.

FISHERIES.

57. The Department of Fisheries was organized as a separate Department shortly after the close of the year and the previous Deputy Director was appointed Director. The activities of the Department were directed mainly to the investigation of the spawning habits of Indian Carp in rivers, the experimental culture of this fish in tanks and the distribution of pure carp fry for which there is a continually increasing demand. A Co-operative Society for fishermen was started at Rajmahal but the spirit of co-operation appears to be absent as the members, with whom the fisheries were settled, gave up fishing and sublet the fisheries.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

Staff.

58. The staff of the Department remained practically unchanged and the difficulty of filling up sanctioned posts in the ranks of Inspectors and Assistants was further accentuated by the falling off in the number of admissions from the Province to the Bengal Veterinary College from 27 in the previous year to 17 only. Until the pay and the prospects of the officers in the Department are greatly improved students from Bihar and Orissa will not be attracted to the College at Belgachia in sufficient numbers to allow the cadre to be filled up. Proposals to this end have recently been submitted to the Government of India.

Inoculation.

59. In spite of the inadequacy of the staff, there was a satisfactory increase of 30,000 in the number of animals inoculated against contagious diseases. The prejudice against inoculation appears to be gradually disappearing among the more educated classes, and there are some hopes of attaining the same result amongst the cultivators through the greater interest evinced by Co-operative Societies.

Cattle diseases.

60. Rinderpest and hæmorrahagic septicæmia were as usual the chief causes of cattle mortality. Two outbreaks of glanders also occurred. Lectures on contagious cattle diseases and the procedure for reporting them now form part of the curriculum of the Police Training School at Hazaribagh, and it is hoped that this training will further improve the efficiency of the reporting gency.

Cattle Farm.

61. The Government Cattle-Breeding Farm at Sepaya continued to do useful work. The number of the herd rose from 204 to 256. An additional area of 150 acres of land is being acquired to provide adequate grazing ground.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

General Progress.

62. There were no striking developments in the work of Co-operative Societies and attention continued to be paid mainly to consolidation of the ground already won.

Central Banks.

63. One new Central Bank and 221 Agricultural Societies were registered. The number of members of Agricultural Societies rose from 51,459 to 56,200, and their aggregate working capital from Rs. 20·37 lakhs to Rs. 21·61 lakhs: non-agricultural societies showed an increase of nearly 20 per cent in numbers and of 40 per cent in working capital.

The Provincial Bank was of great assistance to the Central Banks and in spite of the general rise in the rate of interest in the open market was able to meet all their requirements at the same fixed rates as before. The Agricultural Department is making more and more use of Central Banks and primary societies for the distribution of seed and manure and for other kindred purposes.

64. The Local Government granted a special subsidy for three years to the Ranchi Co-operative Union to enable it to meet the pay of the Manager-Supervisor, whose appointment had considerably improved the position of the Union. **Ranchi Co-operative Union.**

WEATHER AND CROPS.

65. For the Province as a whole the weather was more favourable and the general outturn of crops better than in the preceding year ; and except in parts of Singhbhum and Puri, there was no scarcity or distress. In the areas affected by floods, excellent *rabi* crops made up for the damage to the *bhadai* crops, and the good *hathia* rains especially benefited the important winter rice crop which yielded an outturn of 10 per cent above normal.

FORESTS.

66. The two additional posts in the cadre of the Imperial Service sanctioned in 1915 have not yet been filled up and the only officer recruited since 1913 is now employed under the Army Department. Thus out of the seven posts of Deputy and Assistant Conservators, four officers only are actually employed. In modification of the arrangement entered into in the previous year for training Foresters at the Balaghat School in the Central Provinces, it was decided that as the lectures at that institution are delivered in Hindi, Oriya-speaking officers should continue to be trained at the Kurseong School, and the Hindi-speaking students only will be sent to Balaghat. **Staff.**

67. The area of Reserved Forests in Sambalpur was increased by the addition of 19 square miles of which all but a few acres were formerly Protected Forests. About 5,400 acres in the Kolhan Government Estate in Singhbhum were notified as Protected Forests shortly after the close of the year. **Area.**

68. The excess of revenue over expenditure was Rs. 86,387 in 1912-13, Rs. 1,87,885 in 1915-16 and Rs. 1,13,808 in 1916-17. The last of these figures would have been Rs. 1,86,266 but for the payment to Raja Narpat Singh of Porahat of the quinquennial net revenue of his forests, which are under the management of the Forest Department. **Revenue.**

69. The demarcation of 38 blocks of Protected Forests in the Khurda Subdivision was completed. It is proposed to demarcate as a separate block the large area known as the Barmal and to prescribe rules for management of these blocks as well as of the undemarcated area. **Demarcation of the Khurda Protected Forests.**

70. Further measures were taken for the protection of private forests in Chota Nagpur and in pursuance of the policy adopted an area of $2\frac{1}{2}$ square miles on the boundary between the districts of Ranchi and Palamau was notified for acquisition by Government in order to secure it from further denudation. An officer was placed on special duty to examine the private forests of Ranchi and Manbhum, and private owners are being encouraged to apply for reservation or protection of their forests under the Indian Forest Act. **Protection of Private Forests.**

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

Coal. **71.** The output of coal was over 10,700,000 tons or 65 per cent of the total output of India. The output from the Jharia Coalfield decreased slightly, but there was a corresponding increase in that of the Bokaro-Ramgarh field. There were 66 fatal accidents causing 97 deaths and 90 serious accidents.

Mica. **72.** The Province produced 19,433 cwts. of mica. Good quality mica is urgently needed for munitions purposes and the production is being stimulated in every possible way.

Copper Ore, Iron and Gold. **73.** In Singhbhum the output of copper ore fell from 8,000 tons to a little over 2,000 tons, while the output of iron ore rose from 124,000 to 142,000 tons. There is one gold mine in Singhbhum which produced 864 oz.

Factories. **74.** The number of factories rose from 49 to 57, and the daily number of persons employed from 31,000 to 34,000, of whom 22,000 were employed in iron and steel foundries and railway workshops. There were altogether 637 accidents, of which 15 were fatal and 133 were serious. The general health of the operatives was good, and there were no prosecutions under the Factories Act.

TRADE.

Sea-borne Trade. **75.** The Sea-borne trade of the Province has been seriously affected by the war, and owing to the prohibition of exports to foreign countries and the commandeering of a number of ocean-going vessels, the foreign trade entirely ceased. The total of imports and exports was only 26·26 lakhs against 32·54 lakhs in 1915-16.

Frontier Trade. **76.** The slight improvement in the frontier trade with Nepal noticed last year was maintained, the total value amounting to Rs. 402 lakhs.

Rice was the principal import, its value representing half the total. The import of jute fell from 420,159 to 235,075 maunds owing to the restriction placed on the export of jute from India.

The most important articles exported are cotton yarn and piece-goods, the value of which fell from 63 to 56 lakhs.

Trade by Rail and River. **77.** The figures for interprovincial and internal trade show very little change so far as imports are concerned. There has been, however, a considerable rise in the value of exports both to other provinces and to Calcutta. The value of exports to Calcutta rose from 10·97 crores to 14 crores and that of exports to other provinces from 19·88 crores to 28·63 crores.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Staff and Administration. **78.** In the Orissa Circle, the Balasore Division was abolished, and certain minor changes were made. A temporary Sanitary Works Division was formed with headquarters at Patna. The work in the Sambalpur Division was redistributed and an additional subdivision was formed in the Patna Division.

BUILDINGS.

Imperial Civil Works. **79.** The combined Post and Telegraph office buildings, with Postal Staff quarters at Motihari and Pakaur, were completed and those at Gaya were nearing completion.

Provincial Civil Works. Capital Works, Patna. **80.** At Patna Government House and the Secretariat building were completed and some other residences were started.

81. The Sessions Court buildings at Dumka, additional *kachahri* buildings at Chatra and Phulbani, a double Munsifi at Puri and a Circuit House at Laheria Serai were all completed. **Court Buildings.**

82. The construction of a main entrance gate, office, armoury and Jailors' and Warders' quarters in the Gaya Central Jail, was completed and the construction of quarters for the Press employés was undertaken by the Jail Department. Several additions and improvements were carried out to subordinates' quarters in other Jails. A new Sub-Jail was constructed at Supaul. **Jails.**

83. The construction of cubicles for 58 married Constables and Head Constables at Angul, the barrack for the Temple and Town Police at Puri, and the town outpost buildings at Champanagar were all completed. The Opium buildings at Lakhi Sarai were converted into a police-station and the old Circuit House building at Laheria Sarai was adapted for a Police office. **Police.**

84. The Dharma Samaj Sanskrit College at Muzaffarpur was completed and the workshop in connection with the new Chemical Laboratory for the Patna College was nearing completion. A new Zila School building at Puri and a combined office and residence for the Assistant Inspectress of Schools, Patna Division, were completed. A new block for the Zila School at Balasore and the remodelling of the Zila School at Motihari were in progress. **Education.**

85. A new Operation Theatre was constructed in the General Hospital at Cuttack and the addition of a second storey over the Lecture Hall of the Medical School at Cuttack, was completed. The extension of the General Hospital at Bankipore was finished, and the construction of a tuberculosis ward in the Hospital compound at Bhagalpur was in progress. **Medical.**

86. Residences for the following officers were completed :— **Residences.**

Subdivisional Officer at Begusarai, Superintendent of Police at Gaya, Assistant Superintendent of Police at Gumla, Sub-Deputy Collector at Kendrapara and the Principal and Vice-Principal of the Patna Training College.

Three houses were acquired in the Monghyr Fort to serve as residences and the construction of residences for the Executive Engineer, Patna Division, one Sub-Judge, two Munsifs and a Deputy Collector at Bankipore, the Subdivisional Officer at Buxar and the Sub-Deputy Collector at Barh was in progress. The conversion of the old Subdivisional Officer's Court buildings at Jahanabad into the Subdivisional Officer's residence was begun.

COMMUNICATIONS.

87. The work on the through trunk road between Bihar and Orissa was continued, and a detailed project has been prepared for the alignment of the route between Patna and Gaya. The masonry and steel work of the bridge over the Baitarani river at Jaintgarh was completed and the embanked approach roughly finished. The Bankipore-Dinapore road was retransferred to the Public Works Department.

Considerable progress was made in the improvement to the Chandwa-Kuru section of the Ranchi-Daltonganj road, where the reinforced concrete bridges over the Deonud, the Mangaldaha, the Teeko, and the Kaithi Dhora rivers, were completed.

The three high level bridges under construction on the Jharsuguda-Bhosma road were practically finished. The bridge over the Salindi river at Bhadrak was completed and opened to traffic.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

88. The application of the Sijua (Jharia) Electric Supply Company, Limited, for permission to supply electrical energy to certain areas in the Jharia Coalfields, was sanctioned after the close of the year.

RAILWAYS.

Surveys.

89. Surveys of about 56 miles were completed and authority was given by the Railway Board for the survey of three new lines.

Accidents.

90. On the Bukhtiyarpur-Bihar Light Railway there were two derailments, three trespassers were run over and killed, one trespasser was knocked down by the engine and got slight injuries and on one occasion the engine of a special goods train collided with a branch of a tree.

CANALS AND IRRIGATION.

Productive Works.

91. The Major Irrigation Works are (1) the Sone Canals and (2) the Orissa Canals, both of which were constructed for navigation also. The area irrigated was 811,570 acres, being 4,377 acres less than in the preceding year. The decrease occurred on the Sone Canals under *rabi* and was due to the character of the season.

The gross revenue from these canals amounted to Rs. 24,53,598 or Rs. 1,22,892 less than that of the preceding year. This large decrease was due to the fact that the receipts from *rabi* season leases on the Sone Canals were considerably below those of the preceding year, 1915-16.

The total working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Canals were Rs. 12,78,433, leaving as balance a net revenue of Rs. 11,75,165. This is less than the interest charges which amounted to Rs. 17,27,461.

Protective works.

92. There are two major protective irrigation works, the Tribeni and the Dhaka Canals. An area of 28,107 acres was irrigated from the former and 3,363 acres from the latter, compared with 54,090 acres and 6,692 acres respectively in the preceding year. The fall was due to well-distributed rainfall.

EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

93. The expenditure on embankments was Rs. 85,845 against Rs. 1,25,110 in the preceding year. Of this Rs. 83,402 was expended on ordinary repairs and river protective works. The floods were all of an ordinary nature, except that there was a high flood in the Ganges at Patna.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL FINANCE.

94. Imperial receipts amounted to Rs. 1,24,09,000 as compared with Rs. 1,03,22,000. The increase was mainly due to increase in the receipts from

Land Revenue, Stamps and Income-tax coupled with a decrease in the contribution from Imperial to Provincial revenues. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 43,56,000 against Rs. 46,88,000 in 1915-16.

EXCISE.

Staff and organization.

95. In addition to the minor changes made in the subordinate establishment and the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner of Excise during 1915-16, further effect was given to the scheme sanctioned in 1914 for the reorganization of the Excise Department and its amalgamation with the Salt Department. The changes effected were :—

(*i*) amalgamation of the staff of the Orissa Salt Department with the Provincial Excise Staff,

(*ii*) creation of the post of a Deputy Commissioner of Excise and Salt,

(*iii*) formation of a separate combined service of Superintendents of Excise and Salt, replacing the Excise Deputy Collectors and the Superintendents of Salt.

Advisory Committees.

96. Local Advisory Committees were convened on the same lines as in the previous year. These Committees now meet not only in December to advise Collectors on the annual settlement proposals but again in July to discuss general matters of policy concerning Excise.

Legislation and orders.

97. The Bihar and Orissa Excise Act (Act II of 1915) came into force with effect from the 1st April 1916. The statutory rules framed under the old Act continued to be in force.

The rates of duty on *ganja* were enhanced with effect from the 1st April 1916 in the districts of Shahabad, Saran and Champaran, and the treasury price of opium was increased from the same date in all the districts of the Orissa Division and in the district of Singhbhum, and the restrictions which had been imposed in previous years on issues of opium to retail shops in several districts were withdrawn. The rate at which the Imperial Government supplies excise opium to Provincial Governments was increased from Rs. 8-8-0 to Rs. 11 a seer. The rates of duty on country spirit for strengths above 70° U. P. were enhanced in the rural areas of the districts of Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Saran, Monghyr and Bhagalpur and the area to which the urban rate of duty is applicable was extended in Monghyr. The Excise duty on denatured spirit of local manufacture was abolished under the orders of the Government of India.

Neutral Zone.

98. An arrangement was made with the Central Provinces Administration to maintain a zone free of all classes of excise shops, two miles on either side of the border, between British districts and Native States in that province and British districts and Native States in Bihar and Orissa. A similar arrangement has been made with the Nepal Darbar.

Revenue and consumption.

99. The total excise revenue amounted to a little over 112 lakhs of rupees, showing an increase of 2½ lakhs. The increase was shared by almost every head and was large under the heads *ganja*, country spirits, opium and *tari*.

Cocaine.

100. Preventive measures were continued for the suppression of the traffic in cocaine, the number of persons convicted of illicit sale or possession of this drug being 32 against 62 in 1915-16.

Income-tax.

101. The Income-tax Act (Act No. II of 1886) was amended by Act V of 1916 which introduced with effect from the 1st April 1916 a graduated scale of taxation on incomes of Rs. 5,000 and upwards, under Part I "Salaries and Pensions," and Part IV "Other sources of income," rising from six pies on incomes of Rs. 5,000 to an anna in the rupee on incomes of Rs. 25,000 in place of the old common rate of five pies in the rupee. Similarly the tax on "Profits of companies" (Part II) and "Interest on securities" (Part III) was raised from the old general figure of five pies in the rupee or four pies in the rupee under Part III in the case of incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 to a general rate of one anna in the rupee subject to a right of refund, at graduated rates, in the case of incomes below Rs. 25,000.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

102. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 3,18,50,000 and the total expenditure to Rs. 3,13,60,000 against Rs. 3,17,44,000 and Rs. 3,28,78,000 respectively in 1915-16. There was an increase under almost all the principal heads of revenue, except Irrigation, but the amount of Imperial contributions was largely reduced. The decrease in expenditure was due mainly to a smaller programme of construction at Bankipore.

LOCAL FINANCE.

103. The total receipts of Local Funds amounted to Rs. 1,21,61,000 and the charges to Rs. 1,13,50,000, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 45,55,000 against an opening balance of Rs. 37,44,000. As compared with 1915-16 there was an increase of Rs. 12,64,000 in receipts and a decrease of Rs. 8,16,000 in expenditure.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital Statistics.

104. The birth-rate (36·6) was below the average of the last ten years while the death-rate (32·2) though still below the decennial average was higher than the rates of 1914 and 1915. The registration of vital statistics is still far from satisfactory.

Cholera.

105. The death-rate from cholera was slightly in excess of that of the previous year but was less than the average of the last decade. Epidemics occurred in the northern parts of the districts which lie along the Nepal frontier, but they were not serious nor of long duration.

Small-pox.

106. The mortality from small-pox was about the same as the decennial average and was less than in 1915, especially in the Patna Division.

Plague.

107. Plague has shown no tendency to spread outside the endemic area; and if the statistics are correct, it is slowly diminishing in virulence and prevalence.

Fevers.

108. The registered death-rate from fevers which probably includes many deaths due to other causes, was 21·5 per thousand, a slight increase over both the previous years' figure and the ten years' average.

There was a severe outbreak of a malignant type of malaria in the Jharia Coalfield which spread to the adjoining thanas of Manbhum and the Santal Parganas.

INLAND EMIGRATION.

Number of Emigrants.

109. The total number of emigrants recruited was 36,000 as compared with 95,000 in the previous year. The decrease is due to the recruitment of coolies by the Civil and Military Departments, as the terms offered for the France and Mesopotamia Labour Corps, were more attractive than those offered by the tea gardens. Valuable assistance was afforded by some local agents in recruiting for the Military Department.

Improvements in recruitment.

Draft rules to regulate recruitment in Native States have been prepared and the opinion of the Indian Tea Association on them is under consideration.

It was reported that in Cuttack it was the custom for Sardars to send their relatives into the district to recruit for them, while they themselves remained in Cuttack. The practice is likely to lead to the old abuses of the *arkatti* system, and the Assam Labour Board has been addressed on the subject with a view to steps being taken to put a stop to the practice.

Criminal Cases.

110. The number of criminal cases, in which emigrants were complainants and the number of persons convicted, fell to 66 and 79 as compared with 85 and 91 respectively in the previous year.

MEDICAL SERVICE.

Staff.

111. Owing to the war only six officers of the Indian Medical Service were available for duty in Bihar and Orissa. Forty-four Sub-Assistant Surgeons have been deputed to military service since the outbreak of the war, of whom only five volunteered. Ten Sub-Assistant Surgeons have been dismissed for attempting to evade their obligations. One Sub-Assistant Surgeon deserted from military service and was dismissed. The pay and prospects of these officers have recently been improved but so far there has been very little improvement in recruitment.

Institutions.

112. The number of dispensaries and hospitals rose from 366 to 387. New isolation wards were constructed at four hospitals and are under construction at three more.

The steady increase in the number of both in-door and out-door patients during the last four years is a clear proof of the popularity of all kinds of hospitals. The peripatetic dispensaries continued to do much useful work in the more remote parts of the Province.

Medical Registration.

113. A Council has been formed and a Registrar appointed under the Bihar and Orissa Medical Act, to control the registration of qualified medical practitioners.

Medical Schools.

114. The number of admissions to the Temple Medical School at Patna showed a decided improvement, but the admissions to the Cuttack School again declined from 57 to 46. Under the Medical Degrees Act an Examination Board has been constituted which is authorized to confer degrees. The Medical Schools will in future be purely teaching bodies.

SANITATION.

General Progress.

115. The conservancy schemes of 49 out of 55 municipalities were completed and the remainder were nearing completion. The expenditure incurred

by both Municipalities and District Boards on Sanitation showed a satisfactory increase, but the work of the Health Officers was still somewhat, disappointing. Extensive sanitary works were in progress in Patna and Patna City.

Vaccination.

116. The number of primary vaccinations and of re-vaccinations shows an apparent decrease during the last two years, but it is doubtful if the earlier figures are accurate. The number of vaccinators has now been increased and the inspecting staff has been encouraged to use every effort to improve the quality and increase the quantity of vaccination work. The Vaccine Depôt at Nankum has been reorganized and the results are now excellent.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

EDUCATION.

The Patna University.

117. The most notable event of the year was the inauguration of the Patna University. A site has been acquired at a cost of three lakhs of rupees for the buildings of the University and its internal colleges. The draft Bill for constituting the University met with hostile criticism mainly owing to the groundless suspicion that its object was to convert the University into a department of Government. The Bill was finally passed into law in a form which gave the public a largely-increased representation both on the Senate and on the Syndicate.

The University will for the present be an examining and affiliating body like those at Calcutta and Allahabad, but it is hoped that in course of time as financial conditions improve, it will approximate more nearly to the ideal form in which all the component colleges are situated in the same place and all students reside in their respective colleges and share in the corporate life of the University.

Arts Colleges.

118. There are seven arts colleges of which three are managed by Government. The number of collegiate students rose from 2,415 to 2,575, while the expenditure decreased slightly. The Library of the Patna College has been greatly improved with the help of a special grant and it now contains nearly 11,000 volumes.

Secondary Education.

119. The number of High Schools rose from 94 to 100 and that of Middle English Schools from 224 to 226. The number of pupils also increased substantially. Six new High Schools were recognized.

Primary Education.

120. A decrease occurred in the previous year both in the number of primary schools and in the number of boys attending them. The fall was however only temporary and the figures for the year under report show an increase of 221 schools and 9,436 boys. The teaching has been improved and much has been done to secure a better distribution of schools.

Female Education.

121. The total number of girls' schools and of girls attending them decreased, but the decrease is confined to primary schools. It is due to the fact, that, owing to more liberal stipends being given in girls' schools than in boys' schools, a number of teachers opened girls' schools in the hope of

receiving stipends from District Boards. As stipends could not be granted owing to lack of funds, the schools were closed.

122. The number of students in the medical school at Bankipore rose from 77 to 130, while there was a slight fall in the number at Cuttack. The Bihar School of Engineering had a most prosperous year; the number of students rose and the percentage of successes in the overseer and sub-overseer examinations was remarkably high, being 95 and 84·2 respectively. The artisan classes were also very successful and the number of applications for admission was large. The question of improving this school is under consideration. **Medical and Technical schools.**

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

123. The Press as a whole continued to show moderation and loyalty and recognized the importance of avoiding discussion of controversial questions during the war. The Patna College strike and the Bakr-Id riots in the Patna district called forth a certain amount of violent writing on the part of one paper but this was checked by a threatened demand of security. The few warnings which were issued in other cases also attained their object. **Newspapers.**

Nine new papers were started and five unimportant papers ceased publication. The local press shows little sign of development and the effect of the stimulus given by the creation of the Province appears to have worn off.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1916-17.

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ADMINISTRATION OF BIHAR AND ORISSA, 1916-17.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE AND CHIEF STAPLES.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY.

FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.

CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES; SYSTEM OF SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY.

DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PART II, PAGES 1—129.

Changes in the Administration.

Executive Council.

1. The Hon'ble Sir Edward Levinge, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., and the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Sir Rameshwara Singh, G.C.I.E., of Darbhanga, continued to hold office as members of the Executive Council throughout the year. The Hon'ble Mr. W. Maude, C.S.I., held office as temporary member of the Executive Council up to the 20th September 1916, when he was relieved by the Hon'ble Sir William Vincent, Kt., on his return from deputation under the Government of India. In December 1916 Sir William Vincent proceeded on leave. The temporary vacancy on the Council was again filled by the Hon'ble Mr. Maude.

Indian Civil Service.

2. The Local Government sanctioned, with effect from the 31st March 1916, a temporary appointment in the third grade of Magistrates and Collectors to provide an Additional District Magistrate for Manbhum. The appointment continued throughout the year.

Provincial Executive Service.

3. In consequence of the constitution of a separate service for the Excise and Salt Departments, eighteen appointments in the cadre of the Provincial Executive Service were abolished with effect from the 1st October 1916 and sixteen Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors were transferred to the Excise and Salt Departments.

Provincial Judicial Service.

4. With the sanction of the Government of India the number of Sub-Judges, who might also be appointed to be Assistant Sessions Judges, was raised from three to five. Subsequently the number was temporarily raised to twelve.

Subordinate Executive Service.

5. One appointment was abolished in the cadre of the Subordinate Executive Service with effect from the 2nd July 1916, when a post of Sub-Deputy Collector, Auditor of Co-operative Societies was abolished in consequence of the appointment of a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector to be Deputy Registrar of those societies.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

POLITICAL STATES OF CHOTA NAGPUR.

[Report on these States for 1916-17 by the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division.]

[Two States.—(1) Seraikela : area 449 square miles; population, 109,794 ; income, Rs. 1,61,033 ; Chief, Raja Bahadur Udit Narayan Singh Deo, aged 68. (2) Kharsawan : area, 153 square miles; population, 38,853 ; income, Rs. 52,611 ; Chief, Raja Sriram Chandra Singh Deo, aged 26.]

Administration.

6. The States continued under the administration of their respective Chiefs. In November 1916 they were transferred from the control of the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum to that of the Political Agent, Orissa Feudatory States. The title of Raja has, since the close of the year, been conferred upon the Chiefs as an hereditary distinction.

Revenue.

7. The percentage of collection on total demand in the Seraikela and Kharsawan States was 68·18 and 84·14 against 44·93 and 82·72 in the previous year, respectively. The increase is due to better crops. Excise revenue increased in Seraikela but decreased in Kharsawan.

Material Condition of the People.

8. The year was prosperous from an agricultural point of view and public health was generally good.

Administration of Justice.

9. The total number of criminal cases brought to trial in the Seraikela and Kharsawan States was 335 against 346 in the previous year; there was a slight increase in the former and a decrease in the latter. The average duration of police and complaint cases decreased in Seraikela from 24 days and 15 days to 21 days and 13 days, respectively: in the Kharsawan State there was an increase from 13 and 10 days to 15 and 17 days, respectively. The number of civil suits shows an increase over the figure for the previous year. The average duration of contested and uncontested suits decreased in both the States.

Jails.

10. The average daily jail population increased slightly in both the States.

Forests.

11. Both States show an increase of forest revenue over that of the previous year.

Tributary and Feudatory States of Orissa.

[Report on these States for 1916-17 by the Commissioner of Orissa.]

[Number of States, 24 ; total area, 28,054 square miles ; population, 3,798,120 ; income, Rs. 60,38,116.]

Administration of Land Revenue.

12. The States of Baud, Daspalla, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Narsinghpur, Nayagarh, Nilgiri and Pal-Lahara continued under the administration of Government. The State of Rairakhol was released from Government management under certain conditions and the remaining fourteen States, viz., Athgarh, Athmallik, Bamra, Baramba, Bonai, Dhenkanal, Gangpur, Hindol, Khandpara, Patna, Ranpur, Sonpur, Talcher and Tigiria were under the administration of their respective Chiefs. There was a considerable improvement in the collection of land revenue in 19 States which was mostly due to better crops. In the Gangpur and Bonai States collection showed a slight decrease compared with the preceding year, while in three States, Ranpur, Athmallik and Dhenkanal, there was a real falling off owing to the apathy of Sarbarakars in the two former and to the poor harvest in the third.

Settlement.

13. Settlement operations were in progress in thirteen States. In Daspalla the operations which were postponed last year owing to the failure of crops have been resumed. The settlement operations in Khandpara were hampered by a slight failure of crops and by want of funds.

Crime and Police.

14. The total number of cases reported to the police in all the States was 9,348 against 11,027 in the previous year. The decrease is mainly due to a reduction in the number of petty thefts and burglaries owing to the better harvest during the year. There was a marked decrease in serious crimes, mainly due to the increased efficiency of the police force and to the better surveillance of known criminals and prompter measures taken to bring them to justice. The improvement of the police force in various States continued to receive

careful attention throughout the year. The cadets who had been sent to the Hazaribagh Police Training College for training and who passed successfully were appointed as Sub-Inspectors of Police in their respective States and more cadets were sent during the year for training from Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Narsinghpur and Nilgiri. A cadet from the Patna State, who had been trained in the Finger Print Bureau at Bankipore, returned during the year and commenced the work of reorganizing the Finger Print Department of the State.

Administration of Justice.

15. The total number of criminal cases actually brought to trial decreased by 1,742. The decrease was shared by sixteen States and the remaining eight States show a small increase. As regards the average duration in trial of police cases there was an increase in fourteen States, a decrease in seven States and in three States the figure was the same as in the previous year. The returns for the average duration of trial of complaint cases were better than those for police cases; a decrease occurring in thirteen States, an increase in ten and the figure in one remaining the same as in the preceding year. With the exception of seven States the result reported was, on the whole, satisfactory, and shows that the Courts of the various States realize the necessity for the prompt disposal of cases. The total number of civil suits disposed of during the year increased by 569. The improvement in the average duration of the trial of civil suits continued to be shown by the States as a whole. The bulk of the civil suits was of a petty nature and consisted of money suits for under Rs. 50 in value, but in many cases there were suits of considerable difficulty and intricacy. The work of the civil courts continued to improve both in speed and efficiency and this improvement is very creditable to the Chiefs and officers of the States.

Jails.

16. The average daily population of all the State jails shows a slight decrease. The decrease was shared by sixteen States and in the remaining States there was an increase. The development of the industrial side received due attention: improvement and extension of accommodation were undertaken in a number of jails. Discipline was well maintained. The Chiefs and Superintendents of various States take a keen interest in the general administration of jails and deserve credit for the marked development in all branches of jail work.

Forests.

17. The total income from forests revenue shows an increase of Rs. 61,479 over the last year's figure. This increase is due to the revival of the demand for railway sleepers and for various kinds of minor forest produce. The forest administration of most of the States is now running on well defined lines, but much yet remains to be done to bring it up to the required standard. The attainment of this goal and the constant development and improvement of the forest resources of the States can now be anticipated with confidence. The work of improving the forest staff of the States continues.

Excise.

18. There was a general decrease in the revenue under the head Excise from Rs. 6,87,331 to Rs. 6,10,627. In three States only there was a slight increase and the general fall is due to the scarcity which prevailed in the previous year which made liquor-vendors shy of bidding high prices for shops at the settlement which was made at the beginning of the year under report. Excise regulations continued to be enforced strictly in all States and good success was achieved in detecting and punishing offenders. There is a gratifying decrease of smuggling between the States and British India, due to the adoption of stricter measures to patrol the border. The Cooch Behar system of supplying Rajshahi *ganja* for the States continued to work satisfactorily.

Public Works.

19. Fourteen States were in charge of the Agency Engineer. Roads, communications and other public works received due attention. The total expenditure in all the States was Rs. 14,77,377 against Rs. 21,50,609 in the previous year. The fall is due partly to economy on account of the war.

Weather and Crops, Material Condition of the People.

20. The year was, on the whole, a fairly prosperous one for most of the States and was very much better than the previous year.

Public Health.

21. Public health in the States was generally good. There was no outbreak of epidemic diseases. Small-pox occurred in many States in a sporadic form and in six States there were small local outbreaks of cholera which were kept in check by prompt measures of segregation and treatment and by disinfection of contaminated sources of water-supply.

Education.

22. The number of schools increased from 1,902 in the last year to 1,917, but there was a decrease by 425 in the number of pupils attending them. The policy of weeding out from the schools persistently bad attendants was continued, with the result that the progress of the more regular scholars was much better and the percentage of their daily average attendance increased considerably. The attendance is becoming more and more regular, a result which is due to the personal efforts to foster the desire for education which were made by the Chiefs and others responsible for the administration of education. Female education and the education of the low castes received due attention.

War Contributions.

23. The Chiefs of the various States continued to take the keenest interest in the progress of the war and to show their patriotism and loyalty by assisting the allied cause not only by material gifts but also in many instances by public prayer and thanksgivings. All took the keenest interest in the war loan issued towards the end of the year under report.

Condition of the people.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1916-17.]

Patna Division.

24. The material condition of the people showed some improvement in the Patna Division. The harvests of the year were above the average and prices ruled lower than in the previous year. The demand for labour and consequent high rates of wages contributed to the prosperity of the labouring classes, but the condition of the middle classes remained unchanged. No new economic development of any importance has been reported from any of the districts in the Division and the local industries generally continued in much the same condition as in previous years.

Tirhut Division.

25. Crops were generally good in Saran and Champaran. In the Sitamarhi and Hajipur Subdivisions of Muzaffarpur the *bhadai* crops were seriously damaged by floods in September, but the *aghani* and *rabi* crops throughout the districts were good. In Darbhanga also floods damaged the *bhadai* and *aghani* crops, but the loss was counterbalanced by excellent *rabi* crops. Prices of food-grains continued to rule high in the Saran district but fell in the Champaran and Muzaffarpur districts. The condition of the middle classes is reported to be deteriorating in Muzaffarpur. The public health was, on the whole, good throughout, although plague and cholera made their appearance in all four districts. Indigo, sugar, tobacco, salt and saltpetre are the industries which are carried on on a large scale. Owing to the stoppage of the supply of synthetic dyes, indigo continued to flourish.

Bhagalpur Division.

26. The winter rice crop was excellent in the districts of Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Santal Parganas, while *bhadai* and *rabi* crops were fairly good throughout the division. The temporary distress caused by floods in Monghyr and Bhagalpur was successfully met by grants of *takavi* loans and gratuitous relief. The general health of the people was, on the whole, satisfactory, although plague and cholera were rife in two districts for a time. There was a fall in the number of coolies despatched from Monghyr and the Santal Parganas to the Tea districts, but more than 4,000 coolies were recruited from the Santal Parganas for service in Mesopotamia. The mica mines at Mahesri in Monghyr were taken under charge by Government under the Defence of India Act. There was no great change in the other industries of the division. The technical and industrial school at Benagaria in the Santal Parganas continued to teach Santal boys to make articles of local use. The Co-operative Banks in the Godda, Pakaur and Rajmahal Subdivisions and grain *golas* in the Dumka Damin were of much help to needy tenants.

Orissa Division.

27. Crops were generally normal in Orissa. The middle classes and landless labourers profited by lower prices of food-grains. In a small area on the border of the Chilka Lake, in the district of Puri, the rice crop failed as a result of drought, and it was necessary to supplement *takavi* loans by test works and to distribute gratuitous relief on a small scale. The season was unfavourable for jute which is grown extensively in the Kendrapara Subdivision of Cuttack. The general health of the people was good. There were no industrial developments. In Angul the Pans are now being admitted for training to the weaving class opened by the Salvation Army.

Chota Nagpur Division.

28. Agricultural conditions were very good in the districts of Ranchi and Palamau. In parts of Hazaribagh the outturn of winter rice suffered owing to unequal rainfall. Manbhum had an excellent winter rice crop but early in the year there was scarcity in the south-east of the district, to mitigate which test works and gratuitous relief were necessary. The distress in the Kolhan Government Estate in Singhbhum continued owing to poor crops. The health of the people was generally satisfactory. The large demand for labour in the coal-fields, lac factories, iron works, and copper and iron mines attracted large numbers of labourers into Manbhum and Singhbhum districts. There was a marked decrease in emigration from Ranchi, Palamau and Manbhum. The war gave a great impetus to the coal, iron and mica industries in the division and the lac trade was also brisk, but further development is being retarded by the impossibility of obtaining the necessary plant and skilled labour. In Hazaribagh, however, the local population kept aloof from the coal and mica mines owing to good harvests. The coal mines suffered from shortage of labour. A small wolfram mine was started near Kalimati station and some chromite ore of good quality was extracted in Singhbhum. Several applications for prospecting and mining leases for white clay, red and yellow ochre, chromite, manganese, etc., were granted.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realization of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1916-17.]

Collection of Land Revenue.

29. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 107,711 against 106,532 in the preceding year. The increase was, as usual, mainly due to partitions. The current demand amounted to Rs. 1,51,57,502 showing an increase again of Rs. 32,857 which accrued mainly from estates held direct by Government. The percentage of total collections on total demand and of current collections on current demand did not appreciably fluctuate. Of the total sum of Rs. 62,236 remitted during the year, Rs. 4,424 represents remissions of grace, Rs. 18,903 represents remissions of right, and Rs. 38,909 nominal remissions which are accounted for by alterations in the *kist* dates in certain Government estates. The percentage of total remissions on total demand was ·39 only. A sum of Rs. 60,860 out of the total remissions was in respect of estates held direct by Government.

Operations of the Sale Law.

30. The number of defaults in the payment of land revenue during the year was 9,221, one less than in the preceding year, but the number of sales increased from 384 to 449, principally as the result of drastic measures taken in the district of Balasore, where the *kist* dates were habitually ignored by the proprietors. The amount realized by sale was Rs. 4,12,085 or more than ten times the Government revenue of the properties sold against seven times in 1915-16. One hundred and forty-seven appeals against sales were preferred to Commissioners, of which 27 were successful, while in 33 cases recommendations for the annulment of sales on the ground of hardship were accepted by the Board. There were six cases of sale of *chaukidari Chakran* lands in the district of Shahabad. No estates were sold in Ranchi, Manbhum and Singhbhum under Act XI of 1859 or in Sambalpur under the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act, 1881.

Redemption of Land Revenue.

31. There was again no case of redemption of land revenue in any district.

Miscellaneous Revenue.

32. The total collections of miscellaneous revenue, including those from forest lands in Government estates, increased from Rs. 8,82,604 to Rs. 11,47,265. This occurred mainly under the head "Recovery of Survey and Settlement charges". The total under the general head "Other receipts" rose from Rs. 1,51,660 to Rs. 1,83,538, the most noteworthy item being the increase in the Santal Parganas of royalty on *Sabai* grass from Rs. 1,405 to Rs. 21,601 mainly due to the belated despatch of the sales of the previous year's harvest. The total amount of remissions under "Other receipts" was Rs. 19,875 against Rs. 26,930 in the preceding year.

Sale of Government Estates.

33. There was no sale of Government lands during the year under report. Six small plots of Railway land with a total area of $9\frac{1}{4}$ acres were sold for Rs. 1,806.

Payment of Revenue and Rent by Money orders.

34. The number of postal money orders and the amount of land revenue and local cess remitted thereby rose from 169,342 and Rs. 13,11,509 to 182,960 and Rs. 13,76,614, respectively. The average value of the orders fell from Rs. 7·74 to 7·52, which, with the steady rise in number, illustrates the increasing popularity of this method of payment among smaller proprietors. The number of money orders issued for the payment of rent and the amount covered by them rose from 30,046 and Rs. 4,80,618 to 37,029

and Rs. 5,26,433, respectively, the increase being shared by all the Divisions, except for a fall in amount in Orissa and in number in Chota Nagpur where no money orders were issued in the district of Manbhum and only one in Ranchi. The percentage of refusals was roughly the same as in the previous year.

Land Registration.

35. The number of applications for registration of succession of proprietary interests in land, by purchase, inheritance, gift or otherwise for disposal during the year was 50,353, of which 40,470 were disposed of in Sambalpur, 260 mutations were registered under section 125 of the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act, 1881. The registers are reported to be generally in good order. In Cuttack the rewriting of the 68 volumes of Register D, Part I, was completed. The rewriting of Register D, Part I, and Register A in the combined form prescribed by the Board in 1915 is nearing completion in Shahabad and Monghyr and has been sanctioned for Gaya, Puri, Singhbhum and Darbhanga. The expenditure incurred on land registration work excluding the pay of permanent establishment amounted to Rs. 17,544, as against Rs. 16,086 in the preceding year, the increase being almost wholly due to the employment of special staffs in Monghyr, Shahabad and Gaya. A sum of Rs. 4,110 was realized in fees and fines. In Sambalpur Rs. 123 was realized as mutation fees and Rs. 59 as fines.

One case of fraudulent registration came to notice in Muzaffarpur. In Cuttack three persons were sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment each for having falsely verified their applications.

Partition.

36. The number of partition cases instituted during the year and the number disposed of were 415 and 592 as against 379 and 468, respectively, in the preceding year, with the result that there was a further fall in the number of cases pending at the close of the year from 1,069 to 992. The number of cases pending for more than two years fell from 429 to 401.

Surveys.

[Report of the Director of Land Records and Surveys, Bihar and Orissa, for the year ending 30th September 1917.]

Outturn of the year.

37. The programme of the traverse survey during the year was 610 square miles in the district of Manbhum, the cost rate being Rs. 39·63 a square mile against Rs. 34 for 1915-16 and Rs. 36·9 for 1914-15. Seventeen miscellaneous petty surveys were also undertaken and completed.

Bihar and Orissa Drawing Office.

38. The Imperial Standard Mapping Section was employed on the drawing of fair origins on the 2-inch and 1½-inch scales for reduction to the inch scale as well as on completion of margins and the insertion of hills of such sheets already published as are not complete in this respect. The outturn during the year was satisfactory.

In the provincial section the ½-inch map of the district of Patna was completed and the ½-inch map of the district of Sambalpur taken in hand. The skeleton district map of the Santal Parganas on the scale 1 inch to 8 miles was completed and 100 copies were printed.

Thirty-two Thana maps on 51 sheets falling in the districts of Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Patna and the Santal Parganas were completed. Twenty-three special Ganges *Diara* maps were compiled and published during the year. A number of maps was also prepared and reproduced for the purpose of illustrating reports and other works.

The cost rates under all heads were again lower than those of previous year.

Land Records and Settlements.

[Report of the Director of Land Records and Surveys, Bihar and Orissa, for the year ending 30th September 1917.]

General.

39. Survey and Settlement operations were in progress during the year in six districts of the Province. In original operations the area cadastrally surveyed comprised 924 square miles and in revisional operations 816 square

miles. Preliminary records were written for the same area. Records were prepared for attestation for 1,738 square miles, attested for 2,642 square miles and finally published for 7,495 square miles. The rents of 84,972 tenants were settled.

Future Programme.

40. During the year the traverse survey of the district of Manbhum (including Parganas Barabhum and Patkum) was begun. The revision operations in the Santal Parganas, which were to have been taken up during the year have been postponed till 1921-22. The revision of the Settlement records of the Banki Government Estate in the district of Cuttack and of the Koderma Government Estate in the district of Hazaribagh was sanctioned; and the survey and preliminary record-writing of the estate was begun.

Staff.

41. Three Civilian Settlement Officers were employed throughout the year, and were in charge of the major Settlements in South Bihar, North Bihar and Chota Nagpur. The largest number of Assistant Settlement Officers employed during the year was 80 against 86 in the previous year, of whom 43 were employed in North Bihar, 8 in South Bihar and 29 in Chota Nagpur. Two junior civilians were deputed to undergo training in Survey and Settlement for five and a half months and were placed in charge of cadastral circles.

Permanently-Settled Estates, South Bihar. Gaya.

42. The year's programme in South Bihar consisted of the disposal of cases under sections 105 and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, settlement of rent in Government and Temporarily-Settled Estates under Revenue Settlement, recess work and final publication of those estates as well as those left pending in the previous year, recovery of Survey and Settlement costs in thanas Jahanabad, Tikari, Atri, Nawada, Rajauli, Pakribarwan, Barachatti, Sherghati, Mufassal and Gaya town, and certificate work of those thanas.

Recovery of Costs.

43. The recovery of costs began in December 1916. Of the total demand of Rs. 8,26,818 only Rs. 25,853 was left unrecovered and Rs. 32,833 had to be realized by means of certificate procedure.

Cost.

44. The direct cost incurred was Rs. 1,33,059. The indirect cost has been Rs. 25,935 including Rs. 4,799 as cost of control by the Director of Land Records and Surveys. Receipts amounted to Rs. 21,916 in cash and Rs. 40,213 in Court-fee stamps. The net cost was therefore Rs. 96,865.

Chota Nagpur Settlement. Programme and Staff.

45. Survey and Settlement operations were in progress in the districts of Hazaribagh, Singhbhum and Palamau. The staff of superior officers consisted of one Settlement Officer with 33 Assistant Settlement Officers in the field season and 20 during recess.

Hazaribagh.

46. The programme of the year in the district consisted of—

(i) disposal of post-publication suits and settlement of fair rents under section 85 of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908;

(ii) final publication of 26 square miles; and

(iii) recovery of costs by certificate procedure.

Fair rent settlement was completed except in 22 villages of the Hata Mahal Government Estate and in the Government Estate village Kendua in thana Chowparan. 104 applications for commutation of rent were disposed of. Final publication of 22 villages of the Hata Mahal Government Estate was done.

Recovery of costs.

47. The balance outstanding at the end of the previous year for the recovery of costs was Rs. 31,979, of which Rs. 31,394 was collected during the year. The whole programme of cadastral survey and preliminary record-writing consisting of an area of 924 square miles was completed.

Cost.

48. The total cost of all the operations (including traverse work) is Rs. 17,13,356. The whole programme of cadastral survey and preliminary record-writing consisting of an area of 924 square miles was completed.

Palamau.

49. The settlement programme consisted of the attestation and draft publication of 1,147 square miles surveyed last season; disposal of objections under sections 83 (1) and 111 (6) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act in the area

under attestation ; settlement recess work of the same area ; final publication of the records of 1,419 square miles ; recovery of costs of settlement in respect of 1,172 square miles the records of which were attested in 1914-15 ; and computation of cost of the settlement operations of 1,419 square miles.

50. Agrarian conditions in the area attested, like those in the greater part of Palamau, are far from satisfactory. Attestation work proved to be exceptionally difficult and the progress slow, chiefly because (1) false claims were numerous ; (2) few landlords kept reliable collection papers, and (3) rent-receipts were not given in most cases and the ascertaining of the legally payable rent was slow and laborious. **Agrarian conditions in Palamau.**

Rents are high and the tenants appear to be powerless, either to oppose the exactions of the landlords or to bring them to the notice of the authorities. The general settlement of fair rents recently ordered by the Local Government will, it is hoped, provide an opportunity for framing a record securing to the tenant his rights in his holding on payment of a reasonable rent.

51. The total estimated net cost is Rs. 11,22,331, of which about Rs. 7,60,000 will be recoverable from landlords and tenants. **Cost.**

52. The whole programme of the year was completed. It included (*i*) attestation and draft publication of 731 square miles, (*ii*) recess work of the area under attestation, (*iii*) disposal of objections under section 83(*i*) of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act in the same area, (*iv*) final publication of the record of 534 square miles, (*v*) disposal of post-publication suit of first season's area, and (*vi*) preparation of fair rent schedules. Fair rents were settled in certain villages as a test case and rent schedules have been prepared for the whole area. The total cost of all operations in the estates up to the 30th September 1917 is Rs. 3,19,929, but to bring the operations to a close it will cost about Rs. 33,000 more. A sum of Rs. 1,322 will be recovered from the landlords of twelve *lakhiraj* villages included in the estate. **Singhbhum. The Kolhan Government Estate.**

53. The operations comprised preliminary record-writing and attestation in the district of Saran, final publication, case work and recovery in the district of Champaran. **North Bihar Revision Settlement, Saran and Champaran.**

The superior staff consisted of a Civilian Settlement Officer with 24 Assistant Settlement Officers in the field season and 20 in recess. **Staff and operations.**

54. The year's programme in Saran consisted of three thanas, Siwan, Basantpur and Darauli in Siwan Subdivision containing an area of 839·38 square miles. Out of this an area covering 37·77 square miles of *Diara* was excluded after a part of it had been surveyed, leaving 816·60 square miles to be cadastrally surveyed. The area was divided into eight circles containing 2,036,115 plots. **Saran.**

There are 3,119 trijunction points in the area actually surveyed during the year. The old marks were found intact at 1,586 places, i.e., 51 per cent. Stones were embedded at trijunctions where the marks had not been found. The increase in fields is 3 per cent less than in last year's area. Fields were already so small that much further increase was not to be expected.

55. The conditions were extremely favourable in Gopalganj Subdivision, where the old record is a living force and the greater part of the area is under the Hathwa Estate. **Features of the attestation work in Saran.**

56. The Hathwa Estate invariably gives receipts according to law, but petty landlords generally give irregular ones or none at all. In sixteen out of seventeen cases tried under section 58 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, punishments were inflicted by the Subdivisional Officer of Gopalganj. **Rent-Receipts.**

57. The total expenditure for the season's area amounted to Rs. 2,11,622. Deducting the expenditure incurred on account of the construction of a new record room for the cadastral office at Siwan, and for the preparation of *Hal* and *Sabik* indices, the cost works out at Rs. 237 a square mile. **Cost of operations in Saran.**

Champaran.

58. The final publication of the Sadr Subdivision of Champaran comprising an area of 1,760 square miles and of the *Diara* portion of the Bettiah Subdivision was completed during the year. The case work under sections 40, 105, and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act assumed unprecedented proportions during the year.

Champaran Agrarian Questions.

59. A Committee was appointed to enquire into agrarian questions in the district, and the Local Government have, with the previous sanction of the Government of India, introduced into the Provincial Legislative Council a Bill to give effect to such of the Committee's recommendations as were accepted and for which legislation was required.

Cost of operations in Champaran.

60. The total net expenditure was Rs. 1,23,242 (deducting the cash receipts of Rs. 23,498) or Rs. 161 per square mile.

The recovery of cost of revision settlement of the Bettiah Subdivision was taken up and completed during the year.

Maintenance of Land Records in Sambalpur.

61. In accordance with the sanctioned scheme for the preparation of new maps and records for the district of Sambalpur, maps of 463 villages covering an area of 782 square miles and records of 448 villages containing 396,409 plots were prepared during the year. The outturn of the maintenance work and of the survey and the map preparation was on the whole satisfactory. The Patwaris have made considerable progress in drawing, as a result of which the maps prepared during the year are exceptionally neat and clean. Each Patwari is now given a practical training in survey and record-writing in the field as well as a training in recess work at headquarters.

Maintenance of Boundary marks.

62. The work of the maintenance of boundary marks continued to receive adequate attention. During the year nine special Ganges *Diara* pillars in the districts of Patna, Darbhanga and Bhagalpur, which had been washed away were re-erected.

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1916-17.]

Number and Management of Government Estates.

63. The total number of estates under direct management during the year, including 54 estates managed by Government for private individuals, was 297 against 293 in the preceding year with a current demand of Rs. 18,45,826 against Rs. 18,13,512. The cost of management rose from Rs. 1,41,711 to Rs. 1,47,953, the percentage on current demand being 8 as against 7·83.

Improvements.

64. The total expenditure on miscellaneous and sanitary improvements was Rs. 1,26,924 as against Rs. 1,13,071 in the preceding year. A special grant of Rs. 5,778 was made to Puri to complete certain important works to facilitate irrigation with the immediate object of providing work in the distressed parts of certain villages in the district.

Education.

65. Consequent on the decision of Government to pay to the District Boards or Road Committees cess at the full rate on estates which are the property of Government without deduction on account of the land revenue demand, the grants of one and one-half per cent on account of primary education and improvement of roads and communications have been discontinued with effect from the year 1916-17, except in the districts of Angul and Sambalpur and in the Kolhan Government Estates in the district of Singhbhum, where the Cess Act is not in force.

The total grants of Rs. 4,000 for education in Government Estates in the three last named districts were fully utilized.

Communications.

66. Communications were maintained satisfactorily under the District Boards and Road Committees.

Condition of raiyats.

67. The material condition of the tenants in the Government Estates, with a few well-defined exceptions, was on the whole satisfactory. In the Bhagalpur Division heavy floods were responsible for considerable damage to houses

in Bhagalpur and Monghyr, and crops also suffered heavily, mainly in Purnea and the Bhagalpur Sadr Subdivision. *Takavi* loans were distributed to those who needed them in Bhagalpur and Monghyr. In the Orissa Division the price of food-grains ruled lower than in the preceding year. In the Kolhan Government Estate in the district of Singhbhum owing to the failure of harvest in 1915, many of the tenants suffered severely in 1916. Agricultural loans were freely distributed throughout the whole estate and in the North Kolhan relief works had to be kept open till the reaping of the harvest in 1916. Gratuitous relief was also distributed to the aged and infirm throughout the estate during part of the year. Further distress was caused by the failure of the *bad* crop for the third year in succession.

No epidemic disease was reported from any Government estate in the districts of the Tirhut, Orissa and Chota Nagpur Divisions, but the tenants of some Government estates of Patna and Monghyr suffered from plague.

Wards, Attached, Trust and Encumbered Estates.

[Report on the Administration of Wards, Attached, Trust and Encumbered Estates for the year 1916-17.]

68. Seven new estates were taken under management during the year and six were released. The total number of estates under management at the close of the year was 155, of which 99 were managed under the provisions of the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act, 1876. **Number of Estates under management.**

69. The percentage of the payment of revenue and cesses due to Government was 98·99 of the total demand. **Payment of Government demands.**

70. The percentage of payment of rent and cesses to superior landlords was only 56·8 as against 59·3 in the preceding year. The non-payment of the balance was due to various local causes, such as the refusal of landlords to accept payment, lack of funds, disputes and to cheques not being cashed till after the close of the year. **Rent and cesses due to superior landlords.**

71. The percentage of collections on the current demand rose to 102·3 per cent against 90·1 in the preceding year. The standard of 100 per cent was exceeded in all the divisions except Orissa. **Collection of rent and cesses due to Estates.**

72. The outstanding balances of rent and cesses due to all estates amounted to Rs. 43,25,438 or 74·5 on the current demand as compared with 83·2 in the preceding year. Failure of crops in some parts of Orissa and floods in the Tirhut and Bhagalpur Divisions are reported to be the causes of this poor collection. **Balances of rent and cesses due to Estates.**

73. The cost of management rose from 10·8 to 11·1 per cent of the current demand. The standard of 10 per cent was exceeded in two out of five divisions, but in both cases the high cost was largely due to temporary or special causes. **Management charges.**

74. The amount spent on works of improvement was Rs. 1,78,705 and that on schools, dispensaries and charities was Rs. 3,03,513 ; under the latter head the Bettiah Estate alone contributed Rs. 2,43,870, of which Rs. 80,000 was for hospital beds for Mesopotamia and the purchase of an aeroplane. **Improvements.**

75. The education of wards continued to receive attention and the results were generally satisfactory. **Education of Wards.**

Revenue and Rent-paying Cesses.

[Land Revenue Administration Report, 1916-17.]

76. The various Tenancy Acts in force in the Province continued to work smoothly. No special defects were brought to light in the working of the Bengal Tenancy Act, but the Revision Settlement operations in the district of Champaran have shown that the provisions regarding the cultivation of special crops on behalf of the landlord are somewhat obscure and that the Act has not **Tenancy Acts.**

proved an adequate check on the collection of *abwab*. These points are receiving consideration in connection with the report of the Champaran Agrarian Enquiry Committee.

The Orissa Tenancy Act has considerably improved the status of the tenant class and restricted the extra-legal powers of landlords. In the Ranchi and Manbhum districts of the Chota Nagpur Division cases of evasion of the law which prohibits the transfer of raiyati holdings by fictitious surrenders are still reported. The question of amending the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, 1908, with a view to remove this as well as other defects found in the working of the Act is in contemplation.

Payment of rent.

77. The measures taken to enforce the grant of proper receipts appear to be taking effect gradually, though the practice of granting manuscript receipts has not disappeared. Manuscript and palm-leaf receipts are still granted by petty zamindars in the district of Puri in Orissa, and reluctance is shown by some landlords to grant proper rent-receipts free of charge, especially in the case of produce-rents.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

78. Relations between landlords and tenants were on the whole satisfactory. But in the Patna Division relations continued to be strained as the result of the recent Settlement operations, and in both Patna and Gaya districts there was a marked increase in the number of applications for the deputation of Government officers to appraise or divide the crops. The agrarian conditions in the district of Champaran in the Tirhut Division formed the subject of a special committee of enquiry.

In the Chota Nagpur Division, jungle rights continued to be a source of dispute in Ranchi. In Palamau relations are very strained as a result of the Settlement operations, but it is hoped that the recent orders of Government on the memorials of the zamindars in that district will produce a sedative effect.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative Authority.

[Also refer for this to Bihar and Orissa Administration Report, 1911-12, Chapter III, pages 144—148.]

79. The first meeting of the newly-constituted Legislative Council was held on the 5th August, 1916. **Legislative Council.**

The following were the members of the Council :—

COUNCILLORS.

Name.	How appointed.	Date of appointment.
	Ex officio.	
The Hon'ble Sir Edward Vere Levinge, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.	...	...
The Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Sir Rameshwara Singh, G.C.I.E.	...	...
The Hon'ble Mr. W. Maude (Temporary)	...	...
	NOMINATED.	
	Officials.	
The Hon'ble Mr. A. Ahmad, I.S.O.	...	29-6-1916
„ „ E. H. C. Walsh, C.S.I.	...	29-6-1916
„ „ H. Coupland	...	29-6-1916
„ „ H. LeMesurier, C.S.I., C.I.E.	...	29-6-1916
„ „ H. J. McIntosh	...	29-6-1916
„ „ L. F. Morshead	...	29-6-1916
„ „ E. L. L. Hammond	...	29-6-1916
„ „ F. Clayton	...	29-6-1916
„ „ E. G. Stanley	...	29-6-1916
„ „ H. K. Briscoe	...	29-6-1916
„ Colonel G. J. H. Bell, C.I.E., I.M.S.	...	29-6-1916
„ Mr. J. G. Jennings	...	29-6-1916
„ „ R. T. Dundas, C.I.E.	...	29-6-1916
„ „ L. C. Adami	...	29-6-1916
	Non-officials.	
The Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Sir Ravaneshwara Prashad Singh, K.C.I.E.	...	29-6-1916
„ Mr. Madhusudan Das, C.I.E.	...	29-6-1916
„ The Reverend A. Campbell, D.D.	...	29-6-1916
„ Rai Bahadur Nishi Kanta Sen	...	29-6-1916

COUNCILLORS—*concld.*

Name.	*Elected by the—*		Date of appointment.
The Hon'ble Raja Harihar Prashad Narayan Singh.	Landholders of the—	Patna Division	29-6-1916
The Hon'ble Babu Maheshvar Prashad ...		Tirhut Division	29-6-1916
„ Raja Kirtyanand Singh ...		Bhagalpur Division.	29-6-1916
„ Babu Ganesh Lal Pandit ...		Orissa Division	29-6-1916
„ Kumar Thakurai Girivar Prashad Singh.		Chota Nagpur Division.	29-6-1916
The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Nurul Hasan	Muhammadan Community of the—	Patna Division	29-6-1916
„ Mr. Saiyid Muhammad Naim.		Bhagalpur Division.	29-6-1916
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyid Ahmad Hussain.		Tirhut Division	29-6-1916
The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Khwaja Muhammad Nur.		Chota Nagpur and Orissa Divisions.	29-6-1916
The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narayan Sinha.	Municipal Commissioners of the—	Patna Division	29-6-1916
The Hon'ble Kumar Shivanandan Prashad Singh.		Bhagalpur Division.	29-6-1916
The Hon'ble Babu Adit Prashad Singh ...		Tirhut Division	29-6-1916
„ „ Gopabandhu Das ...		Orissa Division	29-6-1916
„ Mr. Shyam Krishna Sahay ...		Chota Nagpur Division.	29-6-1916
„ Babu Bishun Prashad ...	District Boards of the—	Patna Division	29-6-1916
„ Rai Bahadur Lachhmi Prashad Sinha.		Bhagalpur Division.	29-6-1916
„ Rai Bahadur Dvarika Nath ...		Tirhut Division	29-6-1916
„ Babu Braja Sundar Das ...		Orissa Division	29-6-1916
„ Rai Bahadur Sarat Chandra Sen.		Chota Nagpur Division.	29-6-1916
„ Mr. W. A. Ironside ...	Mining Community.	...	29-6-1916
„ Mr. D. J. Reid ...	Planting Community.	...	29-6-1916

COURSE OF LEGISLATION.

Bills introduced and passed.

80. Six meetings of the Legislative Council were held during the year under report. Two Bills were introduced and passed during it, namely, the Bihar and Orissa General Clauses Bill, and a Bill to amend the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Rules, 1912.

The Bihar and Orissa General Clauses Act.

81. The Bihar and Orissa General Clauses Act, 1917, was enacted to provide for the interpretation of certain Acts in force in Bihar and Orissa, for shortening the language used therein and for making certain provisions relating to such Acts.

82. The Bill amended Rule 31 of the Bihar and Orissa Legislation Rules, 1912, definitely providing that two months' time shall be given to Government for the examination of all Bills, and setting out clearly that no Bill, for the introduction of which a statutory sanction is required, shall be introduced until such sanction has been obtained. **Amendment in the Bihar and Orissa Legislation Rules, 1912.**

Police.

[The Report on the Administration of the Police Department for the year 1916.—Statistics of British India, Part VI.—Administrative and Judicial.]

83. Two appointments of Superintendent were added to the superior police cadre during the year, one for a second Assistant to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Crime and Railways, and the other to hold charge of the new East Indian Railway district which has been formed by the division into two of the overgrown Howrah Railway district. War conditions affected the Imperial Service severely; recruitment was entirely stopped in 1915 and 1916 while only two recruits came out in 1914, and twelve officers have been allowed to join His Majesty's forces, so that there are now only thirty-seven officers to hold the fifty-eight appointments in the cadre of the service. **Force.**

In the subordinate ranks an increase of 363 officers and men was almost entirely accounted for by the creation of the new railway district and by the provision of a guard for the High Court at Patna. The force in actual service on the 31st December 1916 fell short of the sanctioned strength by 347, almost the same figure as in the previous year. There was a marked advance in the literacy of the men, of whom fifty-nine per cent can now read and write, while all the newly-recruited Sub-Inspectors had attained the Matriculation standard at least. The general health of the force showed some improvement.

The Secretary of State's sanction was received during the year to the proposals made by the Local Government for the improvement of the pay of the lower ranks of the force and the strengthening of the armed portions of the force; and a substantial proportion of the reforms was introduced with effect from the 1st April 1916.

The conduct and discipline of the two companies of Military Police were excellent. The Bhagalpur Company in particular behaved extremely well during the Bakr-Id disturbances in the Patna district, the cool and restrained conduct of the Jamadar earning the special commendation of Government. The general health of the force was not good.

A strong force of additional Police consisting of one Deputy Superintendent, one Inspector, one Sergeant, two Sub-Inspectors, four Head Constables and seventy-five constables was sanctioned for a period of fourteen months with effect from the 1st October 1916, to preserve order in certain villages in Patna, which had been the scene of serious disturbances at the celebration of the Bakr-Id in the previous year. A smaller force was quartered in two villages in Muzaffarpur, where land disputes had been rife for some years.

84. The discipline of the force continued on the whole to be good and the number of rewards to officers and men rose from 1,903 to 2,221. On the other hand, a decrease in judicial punishments was accompanied by an increase of departmental punishments from 3,717 to 4,270, which is attributed mainly to imperfect supervision by Inspectors. Eighty-eight criminal charges were preferred against the police as compared with 110 in the previous year. Of these 60 were pronounced false or dismissed under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, and ten were found to be true, but the evidence was insufficient to justify a prosecution. Of the 18 cases sent up for trial nine resulted in acquittal, two were compromised or withdrawn, two were pending at the close of the year, and the remaining five ended in the conviction of two Sub-Inspectors, six constables, and one daffadar. Of the eighty-eight cases no less than sixteen came from Ranchi and eleven of these were found to be false, though no conviction for instituting a false case was obtained. **Discipline.**

Rural Police.

85 The percentage of chaukidars punished remained the same, but the number rewarded rose. The balance of the Chaukidari Reward Fund has now been reduced to a reasonable figure in most districts, but it is excessive in Purnea and Angul. The working of the present system is again unfavourably commented on and instances are quoted in the report of Presidents of Panchayats deliberately abusing their powers for criminal purposes.

Crime.

86. Only one case of political crime was brought into Court during the year, that of a youth named Raghubir Prashad Singh who was convicted under section 124A, Indian Penal Code, of circulating seditious leaflets in Patna and other parts of Bihar. The case created a sensation at the time, as it was the first in which a Bihari had been convicted of political crime of the modern form: it appears to have had the effect of checking revolutionary activity in Patna, at least temporarily. Ten Bengalis were dealt with under the Defence of India (Consolidation) Rules.

Good work has been done during the year in suppression of dacoity, particularly in the south of Manbhum which has been notorious for this class of crime for a long time. One gang has been placed on trial, nine more have been notified under the Criminal Tribes Act and a number of persons have been bound down under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code; a fresh outbreak on the borders of Manbhum and Singhbhum was checked by imposing strict surveillance on a gang of Kherias. The difficulties of the Police in tracing dacoits are illustrated by the case of the Punjabi gang arrested in Guzerat, who were found to have been concerned in a number of cases in Bihar and Orissa, and by that of the Karwal gang who, after escaping from a police escort, committed a number of daring dacoities and are still absconding. The working of the Finger Print Bureau was satisfactory.

The statistics of ordinary crime reflect improvement in agricultural conditions and in the demand for labour in the coal and mica mines, the figures for offences against property which showed so remarkable a rise in 1915 dropping again to a normal figure. The preventive action taken in certain districts, particularly against trans-frontier criminals in Darbhanga no doubt contributed also to this result. Dacoities which numbered only ninety-three in 1914 increased again and reached the total of 179 during the year, of which Manbhum alone was responsible for sixty-eight. It is hoped that the strenuous measures now being taken will lead to a substantial improvement in this respect in the figures for the current year, and that the situation will not again be allowed to get out of hand. Offences against the person were normal and call for no comment. Sixteen cases were reported of flaying goats alive; prosecutions were instituted in all of them, convictions being obtained in thirteen and the other three remaining pending at the close of the year. A careful enforcement of the provisions of Act XIV of 1917 should lead to a material diminution of this horrible practice, the prevalence of which is undoubtedly far wider than the figures for cases indicate.

False cases.

87. The number of cases declared false in which prosecution was ordered increased, but there was a falling off in the number of such prosecutions which resulted in conviction. Compensation under section 250, Criminal Procedure Code, was awarded in a larger number of cases than in the previous year, Cuttack coming first with the remarkable record of awards in 50 per cent of the false cases. In general, it seems clear that more vigorous action is being taken to deter the institution of false cases.

Remands.

88. The percentage of cases disposed of at the first three hearings fell from 70 to 67 while the percentage of those remanded more than six times rose from 3·4 to 4·1. The figures in Patna, Hazaribagh and Monghyr still remain bad. Palamau, Purnea, and Sambalpur have now to be added to the list of districts calling for unfavourable mention, but Gaya, which has been on the black list for some years, has now educed its percentage to a satisfactory figure.

Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes.

[Report on above and measures taken during 1916 for their destruction.—Statistics of British India, Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

89. The total mortality was 847 against 684 in 1915. The number of deaths caused by tigers and wolves rose from 376 and 54 to 530 and 60, respectively, the increase in the number of deaths caused by tigers being very marked in the districts of Manbhum, Angul, Singhbhum and Hazaribagh. **Wild animals.**

90. There was a decrease in the number of deaths caused by snake-bite from 6,795 to 5,970. The decrease was shared by all the districts except Darbhanga, Angul and Puri, which show slight increases. **Snakes.**

91. The number of wild animals killed fell from 1,352 to 998. The rewards paid for destruction of wild animals and snakes amounted to Rs. 5,298 against Rs. 9,380 in 1915. **Destruction of wild animals.**

Criminal Justice.

92. Twelve Sessions Judges were employed in the Province throughout the year. In addition to the permanent staff there were the following temporary appointments:— **Judicial staff.**

(i) Additional Sessions Judge in Patna.

(ii) Additional Sessions Judge in Shahabad.

(iii) Additional Sessions Judge in Manbhum-Sambalpur.

(iv) Additional Sessions Judge in Gaya.

93. The Magisterial staff of the Province at the close of the year consisted of 232 stipendiary and 324 Honorary Magistrates. Of the Honorary Magistrates two are Special Magistrates under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, namely, the Executive Engineers of the Arrah and Sikrol Divisions, who try cases only under the Irrigation and Embankment Acts. Of the 232 stipendiary Magistrates, 149 exercised first, 61 second and 22 third class powers. **Magisterial staff.**

Sixty-one benches of Magistrates were constituted from among the 324 Honorary Magistrates employed during the year.

94. There were 93,648 criminal offences reported during the year, a decrease of 4,581 on the figure of 1915, 63,178 offences reported were under the Penal Code, and 30,470 were under special and local laws. These figures are less by 2,248 and 2,333, respectively, than those of 1915. There was an increase in the number of offences in six districts and a decrease in 14. The increase was most marked in Patna, Bhagalpur and Singhbhum and the decrease in Saran, Purnea, Muzaffarpur and Manbhum. **Number of offences reported.**

In Manbhum the decrease has been ascribed to the final publication of the result of Settlement operations which has reduced the number of cases arising out of boundary disputes in two parganas.

95. The number of cases which were found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed during the year was 21,796 or 23·2 per cent of the number reported. This number includes cases pending enquiry at the close of 1915. The percentage for 1915 was 20·9. Complaints were dismissed in 19,051 cases, or 849 more than in 1915. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or enquiry was 413 more than in 1915. **Cases found to be false.**

96. Of the total number of cases under enquiry during the year, 72,447 were found to be true, and of these 57,769 were brought to trial. Enquiries were pending at the close of the year in 4,242 cases. The number of cases found to be true and the number brought to trial show decreases of 5,081 and 2,543, respectively, on the figures of 1915. **Cases found to be true.**

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Magistrates' Courts.

Results of trials and Proceedings in Magistrates' Courts.

97. The disposals were distributed as follows :—

—	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
1	2	3
District Magistrates	60	103
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates	38,164	7,269
Honorary Magistrates	6,996	295
Benches of Magistrates	2,912	1,913
Special Magistrates	5	

Of the 60 cases tried regularly by District Magistrates, only 2 cases were decided by the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum in the exercise of his special powers under section 30 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 46 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The number of cases decided during the year was less than in 1915 by 1,977. The decrease is probably due to the fact that there were fewer stipendiary Magistrates, but there was a satisfactory increase in the number of disposals by Honorary Magistrates.

Results of trials.

98. Of the total number of cases shown in the preceding paragraph, 632 were committed or referred to the Sessions, and 57,231 were finally disposed of by Magistrates. In these latter, 91,135 persons were accused as against 94,132 in the previous year, and of these 45,010 or 49·3 per cent were convicted, and 46,125 or 50·7 per cent were acquitted or discharged. In 1915, 51·3 per cent of the persons tried were convicted. The percentage of convictions was highest in Singhbhum (71·8) : it was lowest in Palamau (32·2).

Of persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 26,241 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default ; the percentage of convictions of persons actually tried was 69·3 against 67·1 in 1915.

Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 18,835 or 33·9 per cent were convicted and 36,605 or 66·1 per cent were acquitted or discharged. Excluding the cases of 20,993 persons whose cases were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default, the percentage of convictions was 54·6 against 51·4 in the previous year.

The total number of persons awaiting trial before Magistrates at the close of 1916 was 3,830 as compared with 4,277 in 1915. The number of persons

in custody at the close of the year was 308 as against 376 at the end of 1915. The general result of trials before Magistrates of each class was as follows :—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
1	2	3	4
Benches of Magistrates	2,468	4,084	62·3
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	38,410	35,069	47·7
Honorary Magistrates	5,151	5,644	52·2
Special Magistrates	...	10	100
District Magistrates	96	203	67·8

Of the persons shown above as convicted the number tried summarily was by Benches of Magistrates 1,919, by subordinate stipendiary Magistrates 7,859, by Honorary Magistrates 259, and by District Magistrates 94.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows :—

	Appealable sentences.		Non-appealable sentences.	
	1915.	1916.	1915.	1916.
1	2	3	4	5
On regular trial	27,440	24,744	9,538	9,990
On summary trial	1,976	2,275	9,027	7,722

99. The sentences passed on the persons convicted were as follows :— **Punishments.**

Imprisonment	rigorous	10,349
	simple	434
Fine ...	with imprisonment	1,617
	without imprisonment	31,819
Whipping ...	sole punishment	425
	additional punishment	

A term of solitary confinement was included in 58 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment; and in the cases of 37 youthful offenders a sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a reformatory school. It may be observed that, in spite of the warnings so often issued on the subject by the Calcutta High Court, one of the sentences of whipping was not in accordance with the Whipping Act of 1909.

Nine hundred and ninety-five persons were called upon to give security for good behaviour, and of these 977 were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the orders. One hundred and eighty-one persons were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken against 59, all of whom were

convicted and punished. Two hundred and fifty-four persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace after conviction of offences involving a breach of the peace. These numbers show a decrease of 53 and an increase of 29, respectively, as compared with the figures for 1915. Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 2,075 were for terms not exceeding 15 days; 7,158 for terms not exceeding six months; 2,487 for terms not exceeding two years; and 3 for terms exceeding two years. The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 3,28,706. During the year Rs. 2,51,717 were realized and Rs. 44,054 were paid as compensation to complainants out of fines.

Miscellaneous Proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

100. In addition to criminal trials, the following were the more important classes of work dealt with by Magistrates during the year :—

There were 562 proceedings under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 2,658 persons were involved. The number of cases and of persons involved was less by 6 and more by 82, respectively, than in 1915. Of the persons concerned, 622 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace in addition to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph as having been similarly bound down on conviction. The number of persons dealt with under this chapter was largest in Saran (505), and Ranchi (317). The increase in the number of proceedings of this class was marked in Saran and Ranchi (175 each), Patna (51) and Monghyr (34), while there was a noticeable decrease in Cuttack (88).

In 663 cases, 1,304 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 1,086. Of these 1,043 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 66 after reference to the Court of Session under section 123 of the Code, and 977 under orders of Magistrates for terms not exceeding one year.

Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code were taken in 636 cases, and in the cases of 24 persons a reference was made to a jury under section 138 of the Code. The number of cases under Chapter XII of the Code involving questions of the possession of land decided by Magistrates during the year was 978, an increase of 181 on the figures for 1915.

Under section 250 of the Code, 455 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons. Proceedings for maintenance under Chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 423 persons, and orders were made absolute against 148.

Witnesses.

101. The number of witnesses examined in the Courts of Magistrates was 157,230 as compared with 167,200 in 1915. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 54,217 or 25·6 per cent of the whole number in attendance. In the preceding year the percentage was 25·2. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of attendance fell from Rs. 53,892 in 1915 to Rs. 52,089 in 1916.

Of the total number in attendance 164,485 (77·7 per cent) were discharged on the first day; 37,000 (17·2 per cent) on the 2nd; 8,114 (3·8 per cent) on the third; and 1,848 (1·3 per cent) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 230 less than in 1915.

The districts in which the largest proportion of witnesses was detained for more than three days were Monghyr (3·2) and Patna (3·1).

II.—Courts of Session.

Commitments, etc.

102. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 632, and the number disposed of, including pending cases of the previous year, was 642. These figures show a decrease of 89 and 51, respectively, on the figures for the preceding year. There were 100 cases pending at the close of the year.

Commitments increased in Saran from 42 to 59, in Cuttack from 21 to 31, in Palamau from 6 to 14, and in Manbhum from 31 to 38. On the other hand, the numbers fell in Gaya from 63 to 42, in Patna from 68 to 49, in Darbhanga from 36 to 21, and in Balasore from 35 to 20. The number of commitments in Saran (59) was the largest in the Province.

103. The number of persons under trial before Courts of Session during the year was 1,938 against the same number in 1915. The cases of 1,603 persons were decided, and 315 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 1,603 persons tried, 940 or 58·6 per cent as against 56·6 per cent in 1915 were convicted and 628 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 35 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. **Results of trials.**

104. The following sentences were passed by the Courts of Session during the year :— **Punishments.**

Death		12
Transportation	for life	74
	for a term of years	26
Imprisonment	rigorous	768
	simple	5
Fine		87
Whipping		6

In the cases of nine out of 768 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement; and in the case of one youthful offender the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a reformatory school. Seventy-eight of the sentences of fine and five of whipping were additional punishments. Besides the above 66 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (9 for a term not exceeding one year and 57 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour; and 12 persons, who had been convicted of an offence involving a breach of the peace, were required to execute a bond with sureties to keep the peace in addition to their substantive punishment. Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms :—

Not exceeding	15 days	11
	6 months	134
	2 years	259
	7 years	401
Exceeding	7 years	26

Fines to the amount of Rs. 13,246 were imposed by Courts of Session as compared with Rs. 11,765 in the preceding year. The total realizations of the year aggregated Rs. 4,749 as compared with Rs. 2,274 in 1915. The compensation awarded to complainants during the year, out of fines realized, was Rs. 1,780.

105. The number of persons tried by jury during 1916 was 178. The Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 153 persons, and disapproved of it in respect of 25. In three cases concerning 17 persons the Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict so completely as to consider it necessary for the ends of justice to make a reference to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. In each case the verdict of the jury was set aside. **Jury trials.**

106. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors during the year under review was 1,291; in the cases of 849 persons, the Sessions Judge **Trial by Assessors.**

concurred with the opinion of both the assessors; in the cases of 149 he differed from the opinion of one; and in the cases of 293 he differed from the opinion of both. The corresponding figures for 1915 were 1,301, 973, 131 and 197, respectively.

Duration of cases.

107. The average duration of Sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, was 56·1 days as compared with 45·2 days in 1915. Notice was, as usual, taken by the High Court of all cases of unusual duration. The duration of cases was specially high in the district of Sambalpur (100·2), Singhbhum (93·8), Manbhum (77·08) and Purnea (73·7). On the other hand, there was an appreciable improvement in the Santal Parganas from 44 days to 20 days; and in Patna from 76·1 days to 62·4 days.

Witnesses.

108. The number of witnesses in attendance before the Courts of Session was 9,823. Of these 7,067 were examined and 2,756 discharged without examination. In 1915, the corresponding figures were 10,339, 7,527 and 2,812, respectively. Of the total number in attendance 4,797 (48·8 per cent) were discharged on the 1st day; 2,645 (26·9 per cent) on the second day; 1,114 (11·5 per cent) on the third day, and 1,267 (12·8 per cent) after the third day. The results are, on the whole, more satisfactory than in the preceding year. Due notice of the long detention of witnesses has been taken by the High Court.

The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending Sessions trials was Rs. 20,243 as compared with Rs. 17,287 in 1915.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals.

109. At the beginning of 1915, 15 appeals were pending before the High Court (including the Circuit Court, Cuttack,) from the sentences or orders of criminal courts, and during the year 332 appeals were preferred and 325 decided.

The numbers preferred and decided were 33 and 5 more, respectively, than in the preceding year.

Results of Appeals.

110. Three hundred and thirty-one appeals were preferred against sentences passed by Courts of Session and one against a sentence passed by a Magistrate acting under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Three hundred and twenty-five appeals against sentences of Courts of Session were decided during the year. The orders of the Lower Court were upheld in 275 instances, reversed in 17, and modified in 33.

The results of the appeals decided during the year, as regards individuals were that the appeals of 499 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and that in admitted appeals, the sentences on 54 appellants were confirmed, on 41 reduced or altered, and on 38 annulled. The percentage of appellants, who were entirely unsuccessful, was 87·5 as against 85·5 in 1915.

II.—Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

111. There were 89 appeals pending before the Courts of Session at the beginning of the year. During the year 1,699 appeals were preferred. Of these, 1,677 were decided and 106 were pending at the close of the year. The remaining five appeals were transferred to other districts for hearing. The number of appeals preferred to Sessions Judges was 125 less than in 1915.

In the appeals decided by Sessions Judges during 1916, 3,155 persons were concerned. The appeals of 1,050 of these, or 33·2 per cent, were summarily dismissed; 1,039 appellants, or 32·9 per cent, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 459 or 14·5 per cent obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; 588 or 18·6 per cent were acquitted; and in the case of 19 or 0·8 per cent appellants a new trial or further enquiry was ordered.

112. In the Courts of Magistrates there were 94 appeals pending at the beginning of the year. During the year 1,807 appeals were preferred, of these 1,836 were decided and 65 were pending at the close of the year. The number preferred was 26 less than in 1915. **Magistrates' Courts.**

The number of persons whose appeals were decided by Courts of Magistrates was 3,589. The appeals of 898 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 1,352, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed. Two thousand two hundred and fifty appellants or 62·6 per cent were, therefore, wholly unsuccessful. Of the remainder 451 appellants or 12·5 per cent obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 841 or 23·4 per cent were acquitted. In the case of 47 appellants a new trial or further enquiry was ordered. These results are less favourable to appellants than in the previous year.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

113. Thirteen references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of the sentence of death were made to the High Court during 1916, and one was pending at the opening of the year. All 14 were decided during the year. In the references decided 19 persons were concerned. The death sentence on 12 persons was confirmed, and in the cases of the remaining seven the sentence was commuted to transportation for life. **References under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.**

114. The case of one person, who, though not insane, could not be made to understand the proceedings, was referred for orders to the High Court, and was disposed of during the year, the Magistrate's order being approved. **References under section 341 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.**

115. During the year, 51 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and five were pending at the opening of the year. Of these 53 were decided and three remained pending. The number reported was one less than in 1915. In 21 cases the orders sent up for revision were set aside or the proceedings quashed, and in eight a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in five and enhanced in six cases. In the remaining 13 cases the High Court declined to interfere. **Revision.**

Orders were passed under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in 485 cases, an increase of 14 on the figures of the previous year. All these cases came before the High Court on application made to it.

Three hundred and sixty-three applications for the issue of rules were rejected. Of the 125 rules issued, 12 were finally discharged; 39 were made absolute in their entirety; in two cases the sentence was enhanced; the orders complained of were modified in 46 cases; in five the proceedings were quashed and in 21 cases a new trial or further enquiry was ordered. The figures for the preceding year were 298 applications rejected, 171 rules issued, 53 discharged and 118 made absolute.

116. Forty-four applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for transfer of cases from one Court or district to another were made in 1916 and two were pending from the preceding year. Forty-four were dealt with, of which 15 were summarily rejected. In 29 cases rules were issued, with the result that transfers were granted in 19 and refused in nine cases. One case was struck off owing to the death of the applicant. The principal figures for the preceding year were 38 applications, 14 rules issued, ten granted and four refused. **Applications for Transfer.**

II.—Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

117. The cases of 1,941 persons were decided on revision by Courts of Session during the year. These include the cases both of accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the Courts of Magistrates, and of accused persons against whom such applications were made by complainants. The number was less than in 1915 by 215. The **Sessions Courts.**

PROTECTION.

applications of 1,063 persons were rejected, and as regards 491 the orders of the Lower Court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of five persons were reversed and in two instances proceedings were quashed. In the cases of 294 persons new trials or further enquiries were directed and the cases of 86 persons were referred to the High Court.

Magistrates' Courts.

118. The cases of 2,261 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates. The number was more by 37 than in 1915. The applications of 842 persons were rejected and in the cases of 698 the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 11 persons were modified, and those affecting 281 were reversed. In the cases of 25 persons proceedings were quashed, and in those of 368 persons new trials or further enquiries were directed. The cases of 36 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—General.

Trials of European British subjects.

119. The cases of 17 European British subjects were decided during the year against 22 in the preceding year. Of these 16 were dealt with by Magistrates and one by a Court of Session. Of the accused persons two of whom claimed to be tried by a mixed jury, eight were convicted and nine acquitted. The convictions were in one case for an offence affecting the public health, safety, convenience, decency and morals; in three for an offence against the human body; in one for defamation; in one for an offence relating to documents and to trade or property marks, and in the remaining cases under special and local laws. The largest number of European British subjects was tried in Manbhum (9).

Receipts and Charges.

120. Debiting, as usual, to the administration of criminal justice, a portion of the salaries of judicial officers proportionate to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to criminal work, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 13,51,186. Of this amount Rs. 8,61,080 were for the salaries of judicial officers; Rs. 76,930 for fixed and temporary copying establishments; Rs. 42,095 for process-servers; Rs. 2,01,070 for other establishments and Rs. 1,70,011 for contingencies and refunds.

The receipts were Rs. 6,40,169. Of this amount Rs. 2,41,172 were under fines; Rs. 68,371 under process fees; Rs. 98,719 under copying and comparing fees; Rs. 1,65,702 under Court-fee stamp receipts other than the above; and Rs. 66,205 were miscellaneous receipts. The receipts and charges exceeded and fell below those of 1915 by over Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 55,000, respectively.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN SCHEDULED DISTRICTS.

Santal Parganas and Angul.

121. The number of cases brought to trial during the year 1916 in the scheduled districts of the Santal Parganas and Angul (including the Khondmals) was 5,602 against 5,565 in the previous year, and the disposals amounted to 5,475 as against 5,464 in the year 1915. Out of the 8,671 persons under trial including those awaiting trial from the previous year, 4,178 were acquitted or discharged and 4,165 convicted. Of the cases brought to trial 852 were for criminal force and assault, 648 for theft, 583 for criminal trespass and 1,892 for offences under special and local laws. The punishment of whipping was inflicted in 76 cases against 97 in the previous year. The total number of appellants and applicants for revision was 386, of whom 135 were wholly or partly successful.

Jails.

General condition of prisoners.

122. The total accommodation available in the jails was about the same as in the previous year. The daily average number of prisoners of all classes fell from 7,709 to 7,634 and that of convicts from 6,674 to 6,644.

Serious deterioration occurred in the health of prisoners in the year 1916 The ratio of admissions to hospital, the daily average number of the sick, the total number of deaths and the death-rate were all much higher than in any of the four preceding years. The death-rate, which in 1914 was only 16·9 per mille or not much more than half that of the free population rose in 1915

to 25·0 and in the year under review to 32·8 per mille. Remedial measures have, however, been taken which, it is hoped, will prove effectual. Of specific diseases the most noteworthy feature is the steady growth of mortality from tubercle of the lungs, which accounts for forty deaths against twenty-five in the year 1915. The Inspector-General has been asked to draw up a scheme for the special treatment of tuberculous convicts.

123. Except for the high death-rate, the working of the Monghyr Juvenile Jail was satisfactory. The age-limit has been lowered from sixteen to fifteen years, as the Reformatory School at Hazaribagh is available only for juvenile offenders who at the time of their conviction are under fifteen years of age. This jail was considerably overcrowded in the early part of the year. **Juvenile offenders.**

124. The Gaya Jail Forms Press continued to receive close attention. As it appeared to the Local Government that there were many unnecessary forms in existence and that extravagant indents were being submitted, an officer was placed on special duty to make enquiries. It is hoped that as a result of his labours the work of the Press will be greatly reduced and more systematically organized. **Jail Press.**

125. Owing to the growing unpopularity of the jail service, it has, in recent years, been extremely difficult to secure or retain recruits. Proposals have been submitted to the Government of India for making the warders' service pensionable and for generally improving their prospects. The opportunity has been taken of recommending an increase in the jailor staff, which has been found inadequate for the efficient working of the department. **Establishment.**

The pay and prospects of the medical subordinates in jails have been considerably improved.

Civil Justice.

126. There was no change of jurisdiction during the year under report. **Jurisdiction.**

127. The permanent Civil Judicial staff employed in the Province during the year consisted of 12 District and Sessions Judges, 19 Subordinate Judges and 68 Munsifs. In addition to the permanent staff there were the following temporary appointments :— **Judicial Staff.**

(*a*) Additional District Judges in Patna, Shahabad, Manbhum-Sambalpur and Gaya.

(*b*) Temporary Additional Subordinate Judges were employed at Monghyr, Gaya and Hazaribagh throughout the year exclusive of the vacation, and in Shahabad, Bhagalpur, Darbhanga, Patna and Manbhum for shorter periods.

(*c*) Three temporary Additional Munsifs were employed, all of them in Gaya. The two Additional Munsifs sanctioned for Gaya and Aurangabad in the year 1915 continued to work during the month of January 1916, and the third appointment was from the 29th of June till the end of the year, exclusive of the vacation.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

128. The number of original suits instituted in the Province was 169,340, an increase of 5,811 over that of the previous year. The increase was most marked in Muzaffarpur (1,208), Saran (1,138) and Shahabad (959). **Original suits instituted.**

The increase in Muzaffarpur and Saran was chiefly in rent and title suits and in Shahabad in rent suits. In Muzaffarpur, the increase in the institution of title suits is, according to the District Judge, attributable to natural fluctuation, but he has no suggestion to make about the increase in the number of rent suits. Having regard, however, to the large number of rent deposit applications, it is possible that the increase in the number of rent suits in Muzaffarpur is the outcome of agrarian disputes.

In Saran the District Judge explains the increase in institutions as due to the—

(*a*) failure of the Kayasth Bank ;

(*b*) institutions of a large number of rent suits by Rai Sahib Raghunath Prashad, a leading zamindar, and also by the Bettiah and Hathwa Estates.

The District Judge of Shahabad ascribes the increase in the institution of rent suits to a large number of suits instituted by the Dumraon Estate specially in the Buxar Subdivision.

Of the 169,340 suits instituted 52,940 were for money or movables, 96,809 were rent suits and 19,591 were title and other suits showing an increase of 4·2, 3·7 and ·6 per cent, respectively, over the corresponding figures of the previous year.

The value of the suits instituted amounted to Rs. 5,39,70,536.

Local Distribution.

129. The following table shows in order the number of institutions in each district :—

Purnea	21,949
Muzaffarpur	21,114
Cuttack	19,666
Darbhanga	17,350
Saran	16,878
Shahabad	16,302
Bhagalpur	13,591
Monghyr	13,196
Patna	11,204
Manbhum-Sambalpur	7,494
Gaya	6,401
Chota Nagpur	4,195

The largest number of money and title suits was instituted in Cuttack and of rent suits in Muzaffarpur, the numbers being 16,255, 3,411 and 15,730, respectively. The District Judge of Cuttack attributes the large number of money suits in Cuttack to petty money-lending which is said to be much more prevalent in Orissa than in the rest of the Province.

Nature of suits instituted.

130. The following table shows that the majority of suits instituted were, as usual, under Rs. 50 in value :—

—	Suits for money and movables.	Suits under the rent law.	Title and other suits.
1	2	3	4
Not exceeding Rs. 10	2,780	26,673	843
Not exceeding Rs. 50	21,863	44,652	3,785
Not exceeding Rs. 100	12,184	13,143	3,121
Not exceeding Rs. 500	13,892	10,977	7,529
Exceeding Rs. 500 or value not stated	2,221	1,364	4,313
Total	52,940	96,809	19,591

Of the suits under the rent law 98·6 per cent were for realization of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as title suits, 31·1 per cent were mortgage suits; 50·9 per cent were for immovable property and 8·2 per cent for specific relief. The suits which come under this head (title suits) represent in value 72·4 per cent of the total litigation in the Province. Of the 31 suits of the value of over a lakh instituted during the year, 29 were title suits and 2 suits for money and movables.

131. The number of suits instituted (169,340) added to the number pending from the last year (100,194) gives a total of (269,534) suits for disposal. This is an increase of 16,662 on the figures of the previous year. There was, however, a corresponding increase in disposals, the number disposed of being 173,492, an increase of 15,755 over the figure of 1915. The following table shows the disposals of contested and uncontested suits by Subordinate Judges and Munsifs :— **Number of suits disposed of.**

		Contested.			Uncontested.			Total of columns 4 and 7.	Average disposal.			Percentage of contested disposals to total decided.	
		Under ordinary procedure.	Under S. C. C. powers.	Total.	Under ordinary procedure.	Under S. C. C. powers.	Total.		Contested.	Uncontested.	Total.	Under ordinary procedure.	Under S. C. C. powers.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
By Sub-Judges	1915	1,682	840	2,522	2,412	3,691	6,103	8,625	105	254	359	19·5	·7
	1916	1,976	1,047	3,023	2,439	4,204	6,643	9,666	121	266	387	20·4	10·8
By Munsifs ...	1915	21,536	3,414	24,950	97,676	26,314	123,990	148,940	361	1,797	2,158	14·4	2·2
	1916	21,949	2,920	24,869	114,762	24,064	138,826	163,695	360	2,012	2,372	13·4	1·7

There was an increase in the number of suits disposed of in all the districts of the Province, except Cuttack. The increase was greatest in Muzaffarpur (5,051), Saran (2,609), Shahabad (2,582). In Cuttack the disposals decreased from 21,232 to 19,809. The increase in disposals in Muzaffarpur is due to the strengthening of the cadre of the district by the deputation of an Additional Subordinate Judge and an Additional Munsif. It appears that there was an increase here of 3,670 in the disposals of *ex parte* rent suits alone. The figure for 1915 is 6,269 and that for 1916 is 9,966. In Shahabad the increase is due to the deputation of an Additional Munsif to the district. The increase of disposals in Saran was made without any increase of staff and would be satisfactory, but for the fact that in this district there was a large number of suits decreed *ex parte* or dismissed for default which were afterwards re-admitted. The decrease of disposals in Cuttack is probably due to the fact that there was in Cuttack a very small number of Munsifs with Small Cause Court powers during the year 1916. Twelve thousand four hundred and twenty-one Small Cause Court cases were disposed of by Munsifs in Cuttack in 1915 as against only 10,780 in 1916.

Of the total number of suits decided, 163,695 were disposed of by Munsifs, 9,666 by Subordinate Judges, 76 by the Small Cause Court Judge of Dinapore and 55 by District and Additional District Judges.

It may be noted that about one-sixth of the total number disposed of by the Munsifs was under the Small Cause Court procedure, and that the larger average in the number of disposals by Munsifs is accounted for by a corresponding increase in the number of uncontested suits.

Disposals by Small Cause Courts.

132. The Provincial Small Cause Court at Dinapore disposed of 76 suits of which five were contested. The corresponding figures of the previous year were 92 and 10, respectively.

Results of suits.

133. The following table shows the proportion of the contested and uncontested suits to the total number of suits disposed of. It also shows the number of cases in which the plaintiffs were successful in whole or in part, and cases in which the plaintiffs were unsuccessful. There was little variation as compared with the previous year :—

—	Contested.			Uncontested.								Plaintiffs wholly or partly successful.	Plaintiffs unsuccessful.	Re-trial.		
				Ex parte.												
	For plaintiff.	For defendant.	Total.	Dismissed.	Decreased.	Compromised.	Decreed on Confession.	Dismissed for default, etc.	Withdrawn with leave.	Rejected.	Total.			Applications made.	Applications rejected.	Percentage of successful applications.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	12	13	14	15	16	17
	22,655	5,273	27,928	1,031	80,691	32,006	2,336	26,108	2,880	512	145,564	105,682	35,804	8,903	3,255	36·5
Percentage with reference to total number of cases disposed of (173,492 in 1916).	13·05	3·03	16·09	·59	46·5	18·4	1·	15·04	1·6	·2	83·91	60·9	20·6	...	...	...
	22,038	5,453	27,521	975	69,674	31,353	2,111	22,425	3,153	525	130,216	93,853	32,531	7,850	3,332	42·4
Percentage with reference to total number of cases disposed of (157,737 in 1915).	13·9	3·4	17·4	·6	44·1	19·8	1·3	14·2	1·9	·3	82·6	59·5	20·6	...	...	...

Of the 27,928 suits decided after contest 22,655 or 81·1 per cent resulted in favour of plaintiffs and 5,273 or 18·9 per cent in favour of defendants.

Application for re-trial.

134. The table given in the preceding paragraph shows the total number of applications for re-trial and the applications that were successful. It will be seen that applications for re-trial were filed in 8·3 per cent of the total number of cases which were dismissed for default or in which decrees were made *ex parte*, and of these, 36·5 per cent were successful. These percentages are not satisfactory.

Average duration of suits.

135. The average duration of suits, contested and uncontested in the several grades of Courts, was as follows :—

—		District Judges.		Subordinate Judges.		Munsifs.		Small Cause Court Judges.	
		1916.	1915.	1916.	1915.	1916.	1915.	1916.	1915.
		Days.		Days.		Days.		Days.	
Under ordinary procedure.	Contested ...	256	328	486	427	225	244	...	...
	Uncontested ...	277	264	302	283	129	134	...	...
Under Small Cause Court proceeure.	Contested ...	...	...	87	85	77	74	48	47
	Uncontested...	...	...	74	53	47	42	91	32

This shows that whilst there was a general decrease in the duration of suits decided by Munsifs and District Judges, there was an unsatisfactory increase in the duration of suits disposed of by Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges.

136. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was reduced from 87,744 to 87,394. **Pending suits.**

Of the pending suits 2,040 had been pending for more than a year, 6,927 for more than six months and 40,636 for more than three months. There were 855 suits pending for more than a year in the Courts of Munsifs, 1,185 in the Courts of District and Sessions Judges. In spite of the help given the number of suits pending for a year more was largest in Muzaffarpur (318), Monghyr (309), Patna (283), Shahabad (233) and Darbhanga (203). The total for the Province, however, shows a decrease of 312 as compared with the corresponding figure for 1915, and it is satisfactory to observe that in most of the districts the long-pending files show an appreciable decrease as compared with the previous year. Delay in the disposal of cases appears to have been chiefly due to want of system in the control of the Courts over their files.

137. There were 25,392 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 104,357 applications were made during the year. Full satisfaction was obtained in 46,919 and partial satisfaction in 10,911 cases. In 41,323 cases the proceedings were returned as wholly infructuous and 29,417 remained pending at the close of the year. The figures show an unsatisfactory state of affairs in regard to execution proceedings. The proportion of infructuous proceedings was highest in Cuttack (72·3). The next highest percentages were in Manbhum-Sambalpur (60·5) and Chota Nagpur (58·9). No explanation is given of the abnormal percentage of infructuous applications for execution in their respective districts. In the district of Cuttack an enquiry was made by the District Judge who thinks that the large number of infructuous applications is due to the special conditions of Orissa, where there are many petty money-lenders who are often co-villagers and do not press for execution. The total amount realized in Courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 94,93,249. The coercive measures employed were arrest of judgment-debtors in 679 cases, sale of movable and immovable property in 1,199 and 17,955 cases, respectively, and attachment of property followed by its release in 24,085 cases. Possession of immovable property was given in 2,078 cases, of which the largest number was in the district of Manbhum-Sambalpur. **Execution proceedings.**

138. Twenty-three thousand four hundred and forty-one cases of a judicial nature other than suits and execution proceedings were instituted, 22,205 were disposed of and 6,308 were left pending. Of the cases disposed of 2,193 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed, 5,062 were decided *ex parte* and 7,170 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 52·6 per cent were granted. Of the pending cases 54 were more than a year old. **Miscellaneous cases.**

The number of miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted and disposed of was 4,803 and 4,566, respectively. The number of applications for the deposit of rent was highest in Muzaffarpur (1,861), Gaya (473) and Darbhanga (139). The increase in Muzaffarpur from 731 to 1,861 is noticeable. No reason is given for the increase, but it is possible that it is due to agrarian disputes.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—Appeals in the High Court.

139. The number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the Civil Courts in Bihar and Orissa which came before the High Court **Appeals from Subordinate Courts.**

including the Circuit Court at Cuttack and which were decided during the past year was as follows:—

—	Pending at the close of 1915.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1916.
1	2	3	4	5
First Appeals—				
From decrees	725	215	326	614
From orders	255	202	277	180
Second Appeals—				
From decrees	1,657	1,607	1,830	1,434
From orders	87	135	151	71
	2,724	2,159	2,584	2,299

Of the 1,822 appeals from decrees instituted during the year, 495 or 27·1 per cent were valued at less than Rs. 50. In 1915 the proportion was 26·6 per cent. The figures, which include Calcutta institutions and disposals, show a satisfactory decrease in the number of pending appeals.

Results of appeals.

140. Of the 326 appeals from the original decrees decided during the year, 122 were uncontested, being dismissed for default, compromised or decided *ex parte*. Of those decided after contest, in 127 cases the decrees of the Lower Court were confirmed, in 46 cases reversed, in 19 modified and in 12 remanded.

Of the 1,830 appeals from Appellate decrees of District Judges and Subordinate Judges, 745 were summarily rejected, 13 compromised, 11 were withdrawn and 49 were dismissed for default; while of the remainder 672 decrees were confirmed, 124 reversed, 48 modified and 168 remanded.

Of the 428 appeals from orders decided, 162 were uncontested and 266 were decided after trial. Of the latter, 184 orders were confirmed, 50 reversed, 10 varied and 22 remanded.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals instituted.

141. There were 7,521 appeals instituted in 1916, of which 3,427 were in rent suits, 3,306 in title suits, and 788 in suits for money or movables. The total was 74 less than in 1915, the decrease being in title appeals. The number of appeals valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 was 676 and 1,959, respectively. The total value of appeals instituted in 1916 was Rs. 20,46,365. The number of cases in which an appeal lay decided by Subordinate Courts was 23,779 and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions excluding appeals from decisions of Revenue Officers was 32·7 per cent. The highest percentages were in Cuttack (45·9), Shahabad (37·7), Manbhum-Sambalpur (36·6), Gaya (36·2), and Patna (36·2) and the lowest in Bhagalpur (18·2), Purnea (18·3), Muzaffarpur (28·6).

The number of appeals instituted in 1916 was smaller than in the previous year in eight districts and larger in four. The decrease was largest in Gaya (99). The largest increase (163) occurred in Shahabad.

142. The number of appeals disposed of was 7,848, a decrease of 448, as compared with the figures of the previous year. Of these, 5,395 were decided by District and Additional District Judges and 2,453 by Subordinate Judges, a decrease of 3 and 445, respectively, as compared with the previous year. The number decided after contest (6,694) was less by 430 than in 1915. **Appeals disposed of.**

There was an increase in disposals in four districts and was largest in Patna (713) and Gaya (530). The increase in Patna was due to the District Judge being able to devote more time to civil work than in 1915, and also to the appointment of a temporary Additional Subordinate Judge. In Gaya the District Judge spent half as many days again as in 1915, on civil work and a temporary Additional District Judge also contributed to the increase. The number of cases decided fell off in eight districts, the decrease being largest in Shahabad (613). The decrease in Shahabad was mainly due to a large fall in the number of special appeals disposed of. The number disposed of in 1916 was 145 as against 952 special appeals disposed of in 1915. The fall in institutions in special appeals is due to the fact that the Settlement operations are over.

143. There were 5,195 appeals pending at the close of the year, 61 less than at the end of 1915. Of these 438 were pending for more than one year as compared with 270 in 1915. This increase in the number of appeals pending over one year is unsatisfactory. **Appeals pending.**

144. The result on the decisions of the Lower Court of the appeals decided during the year was as follows :— **Results of appeals.**

In 4,190 cases or 53·3 per cent of the whole the judgment of the Lower Court was affirmed. In 1,029 cases or 13·1 per cent it was modified and in 1,294 or 16·4 per cent it was reversed. The results are more favourable to the Lower Courts than in the preceding year. 357 appeals or 4·6 per cent were remanded and 978 or 12·6 per cent were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default.

145. One thousand four hundred and fifty-nine miscellaneous appeals were instituted during the year. 1,482 were disposed of and 510 remained pending at the close of the year. **Miscellaneous appeals.**

GENERAL.

146. The receipts of the Civil Courts in Bihar and Orissa for the year under review amounted to Rs. 36,95,569, an increase of Rs. 1,35,911 on those of the previous year, and the charges to Rs. 14,10,018, a decrease of Rs. 62,879 on those of 1915. Including the amount of Rs. 77,014 realized on account of duty on Probates, etc., there was a profit to the Government from civil litigation of Rs. 23,62,565 and exclusive of the item referred to the surplus amounted to Rs. 22,85,551. Details of the receipts and charges are as follows :— **Receipts and charges.**

Receipts.			Rs.	Charges.		Rs.
In stamps	Process fees	...	3,72,381	Salaries of Judicial officers ...		5,77,062
	Other fees	...	27,28,833	Establishment — Process-servers.		1,55,219
In cash or special stamps.	Fines	...	574	Establishment — Others	...	4,46,706
	Copying and comparing fees.		2,04,483	Copyists' fees ...	...	1,44,183
	Other receipts	...	89,298	Contingencies and refund	...	86,848
	Total	...	36,95,569	Total	...	14,10,018

Receipts show an increase on the previous year's figures of over Rs. 1,35,000; the increase chiefly occurred under "Other Fees". The decrease in expenditure is principally under the head "Salaries of Judicial Officers".

The Courts of three Subordinate Judges and 11 Munsifs were inspected by District Judges. The Judge in charge of the English Department in the High Court inspected all the District Courts, 20 Subordinate Judges' Courts and 26 Munsifs' Courts during the year.

CIVIL JUSTICE IN SCHEDULED DISTRICTS.

147. The total number of suits instituted during the year in the civil courts in the scheduled districts of the Santal Parganas and Angul (including the Khondmals) was 14,766 against 13,086 in the previous year. Of these 7,291 were suits for money and movable property, 6,360 rent suits and 1,115 title and other suits. Rent and money suits increased by 26·6 per cent and 4·3 per cent, respectively, and title suits by 0·9 per cent. The number of cases disposed of amounted to 14,762, leaving 2,240 pending at the close of the year. There were 11,456 applications for execution of decrees, of which 2,384 remained pending at the end of the year, 613 appeals from decrees were filed and 548 were disposed of. Out of 183 miscellaneous appeals 168 were disposed of.

Registration.

[Triennial Report on the working of the Registration Department in Bihar and Orissa for the three years ending the 31st December 1916.]

Offices.

148. No additions were made to the number (130) of permanent Registration offices. Three offices were opened experimentally in the districts of Darbhanga, Purnea and Puri. The experimental offices in the districts of Darbhanga and Puri have since been made permanent. The office in Purnea is still in the experimental stage; one office was opened temporarily in Monghyr and worked for a short period.

Considerable progress has been made with the provision of Government buildings for Registration offices.

Statistics.

149. The total number of registrations of documents affecting immovable property, movable property and wills decreased by 7·8 per cent from 535,643 to 494,014. The number of documents registered during the three years 1914—16 was, however, 17·6 per cent more than the number registered during the previous three years. The increase was shared by all the three main classes, compulsory registration affecting immovable property showing an increase of 18·4 per cent, optional registration affecting immovable property—an increase of 7 per cent and other registrations including registrations affecting movable property, wills and authorities to adopt—an increase of 2·1 per cent. The aggregate receipts and expenditure during the three years rose by 16·2 and 14·7 per cent, respectively. The total value of the immovable property affected by the documents registered during the three years 1914—16 was Rs. 9,54,54,895, Rs. 10,11,21,454 and Rs. 9,74,12,098, respectively.

The total number of searches has increased from 37,963 in 1915 to 38,311 in 1916. These figures afford a striking indication of the steadily growing appreciation of the uses of registration.

The majority of the cases of prosecution for false personation are reported to have ended in conviction. The system of taking finger impressions of registrants has been generally effective in checking false personation as well as in securing detection.

Registration in various Divisions.

Patna Division.

150. Registration increased in Gaya and decreased in Patna and Shahabad of this Division; in Gaya it increased by 2·7 per cent and the increase is ascribed chiefly to the completion of the Survey and Settlement operations; in Patna and Shahabad it fell off by 0·4 per cent, and 7·3 per cent respectively; in Patna the decrease is ascribed to a fall in the prices of food-grains and in

Shahabad, where the decrease is evenly distributed under all classes of documents, it is ascribed to a prosperous agricultural year and the diminution in the number of agrarian disputes resulting from the conclusion of the Settlement operations and the civil suits arising out of them.

151. There was a fall in registration in Saran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga by 4·4 per cent, 21·3 per cent and 13·3 per cent, respectively. Improvement in agricultural conditions was noticeable in all the three districts; other causes contributing to the decrease are the prevalence of cholera in Muzaffarpur during the busy season of the year and the greater resort in Darbhanga to Co-operative Societies for loans. In Champaran there was an increase by 2·6 per cent. The increase which was chiefly under sales and mortgages is ascribed to the necessity which persons who had been holding land under verbal authority or unregistered documents felt of having their claims better established in view of the attestation of Survey records which was going on. **Tirhut Division.**

152. Registration fell in the districts of Bhagalpur and Monghyr and the Santal Parganas by 20·8 and 7·4 and 5 per cent, respectively, and the fall is ascribed to the improvement of agricultural conditions. In Purnea registration increased by 0·9 per cent. **Bhagalpur Division.**

153. Compared with the figures for 1915 the figures for 1916 represented decreases of 2·9, 18·1 and 6·3 per cent, respectively, in the districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri. The decreases are ascribed to the return of better times after bad harvests in the previous year. In Sambalpur and Angul registrations increased by 5·7 and 80 per cent, respectively. The increase in Sambalpur is due to the fact that in 1915 owing to outbreaks of cholera and small-pox, the number of registrations was unusually low. In Angul registrations are so few (the total number of registrations in 1914, 1915, and 1916 was 22, 20 and 36, respectively,) that an increase of 80 per cent calls for no special comment. **Orissa Division.**

154. There was an increase of 10·5 per cent. in registration in Hazaribagh and a falling off in other districts of this division, viz., 8·5 per cent in Ranchi, 30·8 per cent in Palamau, 1·6 per cent in Manbhum and 5·7 per cent in Singhbhum. In Hazaribagh the increase is ascribed partly to a poorer outturn of crops accompanied by a general rise in prices, and partly to the recovery of cost of the Settlement operations. The decrease in Ranchi is due to good harvest of the year and to a certain extent to the opening of Co-operative Societies. The fall in Palamau is attributed to better agricultural conditions and to the people being engaged with the Survey and Settlement operations of the district. The decrease in Manbhum is slight and is due to the outbreaks of cholera, small-pox and fever in several places. The decrease in Singhbhum is due to a better outturn of crops. **Chota Nagpur Division.**

155. The total number of companies, limited by shares, working at the close of the year under report, was 37, with an aggregate authorized capital of Rs. 49,60,000 and an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 15,58,867 against 38 companies with an aggregate authorized capital of Rs. 52,00,454 and an aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 13,24,770 with which the year started. The number of companies limited by guarantee at the close of the year under review was eight against six at the close of the year 1915-16. **Working of the Indian Companies Act, VII of 1913.**

Number of companies.

No new companies were started during the year as private companies, but two previously existing companies converted themselves into private companies during the year under report, viz.—(1) Darbhanga Mills, Limited, a rice and soorki manufacturing company, in the town of Darbhanga, and (2) Parsa, Limited, an indigo and sugar manufacturing company in Bettiah in the district of Champaran; these two are the only private companies so far registered in this Province.

During the year under report, two new companies, limited by shares, were registered and incorporated, viz.—(1) The Hazaribagh Motor Service Company, Limited, with the object of carrying on motor service business from Hazaribagh to the neighbouring districts and places, and (2) The All-India University Printing and Publishing Company and Educational Syndicate

PROTECTION.

Limited, with the object of carrying on business as printers and publishers of Educational, Scientific and law books and of other literary works and magazines. The authorized capital is Rs. 1,00,000 in each case, divided in the case of the former into ten thousand shares of Rs. 10 each, and in that of the latter, into a hundred thousand shares of Re. 1 each. The first-named company was registered on the 1st April 1916, i.e., just at the commencement of the year under report, but it could not begin its business during the year; and there are no signs yet of it ever being able to start business. The registered office of the company is situated at Hazaribagh. The notice of situation of the registered office of the other company was not filed during the year, but it is understood that the company will start its business at Patna. One company limited by shares, viz., Ambler's Slate and Stone Company, Limited, was transferred from the Province of Bengal to the Province of Bihar and Orissa during the year under report; a certified copy of the order, dated the 10th July 1917, of the Calcutta High Court confirming the alteration in the Memorandum of Association, changing the registered office of the company from Bengal to Bihar and Orissa, was filed and registered in the office of the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, Bihar and Orissa, on the 31st August 1916. This company has an authorized capital of Rs. 2,00,000, divided into 20,000 shares of Rs. 10 each, and all the shares are fully paid-up otherwise than in cash.

Two new companies limited by guarantee, viz.—(1) the Bankipore Club, Limited, and (2) The Meath Convalescent Home Association were registered in this Province during the year. The Bankipore Club, Limited, has its registered office at Bankipore and the Articles of Association of the Company declare it to consist of 100 members. The Meath Convalescent Home Association is *an association* (limited by guarantee) *not for profit* registered in pursuance of section 26 of the Act; it has been established with the object of providing a Convalescent Home or Homes for European, Eurasian and Indian Children and its registered office is situated at Ranchi. The Articles of Association declare it to consist of members not exceeding 300 in number.

No new company, incorporated outside British India, filed documents under section 277 (1) of the Act during the year under report; the number of such companies having places of business in the Province of Bihar and Orissa is now twenty-three.

Liquidation proceedings.

156. Three companies, limited by shares, viz.—(1) The Agricultural Bank Industries, Limited, (2) Kayasth Trading Company, Limited, and (3) The Bihar Industries, Limited, were struck off the register and dissolved during the year under report in pursuance of section 247 of the Act. One Company, viz., the Chota Nagpur Carrying Company, Limited, the registered office of which was situated at Hazaribagh, was voluntarily wound up during the year. The aggregate authorized and paid-up capitals of these four companies had been Rs. 6,40,000 and Rs. 21,886, respectively.

One Company, the Bihar Industrial and Agricultural Development Company, Limited, at Gaya, had gone into liquidation on the 30th March 1914, i.e., just before the Indian Companies Act, VII of 1913, came into force. The affairs of the company were fully wound up and the liquidation proceedings were completed by the liquidator during the year under report; the final return of winding up of the company under section 187 of the Indian Companies Act, VI of 1882, was filed in the Registrar's Office on the 31st October 1916 and the company was dissolved from the 31st January 1917.

Capital.

157. During the year under report eight companies increased their paid-up capital by amounts aggregating Rs. 57,985 and four companies reduced their subscribed and paid-up capitals by amounts aggregating Rs. 1,970 and Rs. 2,012, respectively.

Fees.

158. The total amount of fees realized for registration and copying during the year was Rs. 1,361-2-0 as compared with Rs. 1,233-10-0 in the previous year.

Penalties.

159. At the close of the year, District Officers were requested to report after pue inquiry if the provisions of section 136 of the Act requiring Banking,

Insurance and other Companies to exhibit statements of assets and liabilities had been complied with during the year, their reports show that the requirements of the Act were duly complied with except by one company in the district of Purnea, viz., the Katihar Loan Office, Limited. On being called upon to explain non-compliance with the provisions of this section, the Manager pleaded ignorance; he was excused and warned to be careful for the future.

There was no prosecution under the Act during the year. There has been some improvement in the prompt submission of returns, but delays are still by no means rare. For instance, the return of allotment of shares was generally filed by the companies only after their attention had been drawn to the requirements of section 104 of the Act. Explanations were called for in respect of all cases of delay, and warnings administered in a few cases. In a few others the companies asked for extension of time for the filing of balance-sheets, but they were informed that the Act contained no provision for such extension.

One report under section 137 (5) of the Act was submitted during the year to the Local Government. It related to certain facts connected with the Chapra Home Store, Limited, which appeared to disclose an unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Balance-sheets are now invariably audited by auditors duly qualified under sub-section (1) of section 144 of the Act. There are reasons, however, to think that the provisions of sub-section (3) are not always satisfied, and that auditors are probably not always appointed at the annual general meetings; but no definite information on the point is available. A few companies in Ranchi and Hazaribagh complained of difficulty in securing the services of certified auditors, there being only one such in the Chota Nagpur Division who lives at Hazaribagh.

Certificates.

160. During the year under report, one permanent restricted and six provisional restricted certificates for a period of two years each were granted by the Local Government. Including those issued in the previous years, 12 persons in all have been granted restricted certificates, authorizing them to act as auditors of companies within this Province. Intimation was also received from other Local Governments of the issue of unrestricted certificates. There are at present 19 holders of such certificates who are entitled to act as auditors of companies throughout British India.

Rules and orders.

161. Rules and orders were framed during the year reducing the fees to be paid for the filing of certain classes of documents, laying down that for the purposes of Table B of the first Schedule to the Act, the Balance-sheet and the list of members and summary of capital should be considered as separate documents and separate fees should be charged for filing these documents and prescribing certain additional forms to the schedule attached to the Indian Companies Rules, 1914.

Working of Act XXI of 1860.

162. During the year, two new societies were registered in this Province under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (XXI of 1860), viz.—(1) Veda Ratna Vidyalaya Sabha of Mustafapur, Dinapore, with the object of establishing a school styled "Veda Ratna Vidyalaya" with a view to impart Vedic and ancient Sanskrit classical education as well as to gain an insight into the modern western philosophy and sciences, and (2) The Kanya Patshala Society of Gaya, which has been founded with the object of spreading female education in the district of Gaya.

Working of Acts V and VI of 1912.

163. There were no registered Life Assurance Companies or Provident Insurance Societies in this Province during the year under review.

Brahmo Marriage Act, III of 1872.

164. Under the Brahmo Marriage Act, III of 1872, four marriages were registered during the year as compared with eight in 1915-16. The age of the bridegrooms ranged from 26 to 32 and of the brides from 16 to $23\frac{1}{2}$. No widow was re-married during the year.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act and Qazis' Act.

165. Act I (B. C.) of 1876 was in force in six districts in the Province. After the close of the year it has been extended to the district of Palamau. One new office was opened during the year which closed with a total of 32 offices against 31 in the previous year. In nine offices no registration took place.

The number of ceremonies registered increased from 262 to 418. The total receipts of the Qazi Registrars, including gratuities, amounted to Rs. 681-8-0 as against Rs. 519-10-0 in the previous year.

Municipalities.

[From the Resolution on the working of Municipalities in Bihar and Orissa during the year 1916-17.]

Number of Municipalities.

166. No new Municipality was established during the year under review. Proposals for the creation of a Municipality at Dhanbad are now under consideration and orders creating another at Chakradharpur with effect from the 1st December 1917 have issued since the close of the year.

Constitution of Municipalities.

167. There were in all 780 Commissioners on the Municipal Boards in the Province of whom 123 sat *ex officio*, 188 were appointed by name, and 469 were elected. The proportions of officials to non-officials and of Europeans to Indians were 1 to 5 and 1 to 9, respectively.

Elections.

168. General elections were held in the Municipalities of Samastipur, Jajpur, Sambalpur, Daltonganj, and Chaibassa, and most of the vacant seats were contested. Revised rules for municipal elections have been introduced this year with a view to preserve the secrecy of the ballot and so, it is hoped, to check corrupt practices and the application of undue influence at elections.

Number of meetings and attendance of Commissioners.

169. Of 882 meetings convened by the Municipalities as against 862 in the previous year, twenty-two were adjourned and thirty-one proved abortive for want of a quorum. Ten meetings only were convened by each of the Municipalities of Tikari and Rosefah and eleven only by that of Buxar. At Tikari two meetings were adjourned, at Roserah one was abortive and one adjourned. There were thus eight meetings only in each of these two Municipalities in place of the minimum of twelve fixed by section 38 of the Act. This failure to hold the proper number of meetings indicates a lack of interest of the Municipal Commissioners in the performance of their duties, though the default of the Tikari Municipality in this respect has been repeatedly noticed in the past. In Purnea and Khagaul although sixteen and twelve meetings, respectively, were convened, business was transacted at eleven meetings only in each case.

Assessment and Taxation.

170. There were 211,281 municipal rate-payers in the Province against 207,915 in 1915-16. Revisions of assessment resulted in a marked increase of revenue in the Municipalities of Bhagalpur (Rs. 24,010), Ranchi (Rs. 15,521), Bihar (Rs. 8,959), Motihari (Rs. 8,220), Cuttack (Rs. 6,956), Arrah (Rs. 6,675), Purulia (Rs. 6,137), Patna City (Rs. 4,031), Sassaram (Rs. 3,593) and Madhupur (Rs. 2,935). The Municipal Commissioners of Hazaribagh decided to substitute a rate on holdings for the tax on persons, but subsequently, on being asked to consider the matter at a special meeting, rejected the proposal by a majority of one vote. The prosperity of this town is rapidly increasing, and it is hoped that the Municipal Commissioners will soon realize the advisability of making the change.

Attention was drawn last year to the fact that a revised assessment of taxes can only be enforced with effect from the beginning of the financial year next after that in which the re-assessment is made. The Examiner of Local Accounts in his report for 1916-17 has noticed that in three Municipalities this rule has again been disregarded. The attention of Municipal Commissioners has been again invited to the importance of a strict observance of sections 88 and 97 of the Act.

Collections.

171. Large dues on account of taxes remained unrealized in the Municipalities of Monghyr (Rs. 46,835), Patna City (Rs. 28,377), Ranchi (Rs. 13,018), Puri (Rs. 12,125) and Muzaffarpur (Rs. 5,029), all places which were mentioned in this connection in the Resolution of the previous year. The vigorous steps which are now being taken to improve the collection of taxes in the Monghyr Municipality have raised the percentage of collections there from 76 to 103. A survey of this municipality has been sanctioned by Government and a proposal for the readjustment of its boundaries is at present under consideration. In Puri the work of the collecting staff was slack, but the Chairman is endeavouring to recover the arrears as early as possible.

The success of municipal administration depends largely on the prompt realization of the taxes, and failure in this respect leads to a disorganization of finances and hampers work at every step. It is of the greatest importance that municipal authorities should use their best endeavours to keep the Collection Department in a high state of efficiency.

The percentage of remissions on current demand was heavy in the Municipalities of Monghyr (19·2), Katihar (11·8), Dumka (8·6), Darbhanga (5·5), Bhagalpur (5·5), Purulia (5·3), Jhalda (5·3) and Hazaribagh (5·2). The high percentage of remissions in Monghyr has formed the subject of an inquiry by the Chairman, which is still proceeding. It is probable that the orders of remission will be cancelled in a large proportion of the cases on the conclusion of the inquiry. The large remission at Katihar is due to the fact that orders had never been obtained from the Government of India for the assessment of the Eastern Bengal Railway and the arrear demand shown in the Municipal books against the Railway had to be remitted. Formal orders were issued during the year.

The Examiner of Local Accounts has commented unfavourably on the procedure followed in regard to the remissions granted by Municipalities in respect of the rate on holdings. The law provides for the grant of remissions in the case of holdings which lie vacant (section 110) or the value of which has diminished from natural causes (section 107). Remissions may also be given on grounds of hardship (section 106) or when the taxes are found to be irrecoverable (section 130). In the case of a decline in the value of a holding the Municipal Commissioners have no option but to allow remission, but applications for remission for other reasons require to be carefully considered, and this duty appears often to be neglected. Remissions on account of the vacancy of holdings are frequently granted without due regard to the date of the notice of vacancy, and taxes are often remitted for the whole of the quarter in which notice has been given, contrary to the provisions of section 110 of the Act. In writing off irrecoverable taxes the lack of proper supervision over the collecting staff often leads to a serious loss of income. The lists of irrecoverable taxes usually include arrears relating to several quarters, and they are generally submitted towards the close of the financial year when time is too short for the institution of proper inquiries. A Ward Commissioner of one municipality actually complained to the Examiner of Local Accounts that he had felt constrained to recommend remissions without inquiry into each case, because the time given him for the investigation was insufficient. This tendency to remit taxes with the object of reducing the outstandings at the close of the year and without due regard to the merits of each case is most detrimental to municipal efficiency.

The power of reviewing assessments conferred by section 114 also appears to have been injudiciously exercised in some municipalities. In Balasore the appellate committee reduced the increase over the original assessment by as much as 67·7 per cent and at Roserah by more than cent per cent.

172. The total receipts, including opening balances, amounted to Rs. 45,56,542, and the disbursements to Rs. 35,11,430, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 10,45,112. The main items of income and expenditure during 1915-16 and 1916-17 are compared below :— **Income and Expenditure.**

	Income.		Increase (+) or Decrease (−).
	1915-16.	1916-17.	
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Opening Balance	14,33,315	10,63,763	−3,69,552
Municipal Rates and Taxes ...	14,71,863	16,50,543	+1,78,680
Realization under Special Acts ...	42,049	42,361	+312
Revenue derived from municipal property and powers apart from taxation.	2,80,246	2,48,719	−31,527
Grants and Contributions ...	6,92,923	9,08,604	+2,15,681
Miscellaneous	1,29,168	77,828	−51,340
Extraordinary and Debt	6,15,552	5,64,724	−50,828
Total ...	46,65,116	45,56,542	−1,08,574

	Expenditure.		Increase (+) or Decrease (−).
	1915-16.	1916-17.	
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
General Administration and Collection Charges.	1,71,449	1,82,432	+10,983
Public Safety	1,29,450	1,45,227	+15,777
Public Health and Convenience ...	25,76,828	23,24,886	−2,51,942
Public Instruction	1,45,300	1,79,993	+34,693
Contributions	13,531	14,816	+1,285
Miscellaneous	90,212	1,45,307	+55,095
Extraordinary and Debt	4,74,582	5,18,769	+44,187
Closing Balance	10,63,764	10,45,112	−18,652
Total ...	46,65,116	45,56,542	−1,08,574

Closing Balance (Rs. 10,45,112).

173. As noticed last year the bulk of the closing balances consists of unspent Government grants and other contributions for specific works. The balances shown against Revelganj and Jhalda do not appear to be sufficient to meet the working charges for two months. At Jajpur the disbursements exceeded the receipts by Rs. 56. The Examiner of Local Accounts noticed that in certain municipalities the minimum working balances were not maintained even after drawing on special funds and Government grants for special purposes, a practice which is expressly prohibited by rules and should be discontinued.

INCOME.

Tax on houses and lands (Rs. 6,87,364).

174. General or partial revision of assessment in several municipalities resulted in a net increase of Rs. 72,594 which was shared by all the divisions.

Tolls on Roads and Ferries (Rs. 75,452).

175. Tolls on roads are levied in Sambalpur. In other municipalities the receipts under this head are derived from ferries only. There was a net increase of Rs. 17,695 which was shared by the Municipalities of Muzaffarpur, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Cuttack and Daltonganj, and was due mainly to the better realization of rents and the receipt of earnest money in connection with the ferries.

Water-rate (Rs. 1,27,273).

176. The income from water-rates increased in Monghyr (Rs. 7,314), Bhagalpur (Rs. 4,746), Arrah (Rs. 2,112) and Daltonganj (Rs. 74), while in the Gaya Municipality it fell by Rs. 5,922, the decrease upon the previous year's receipts being due to the fact that the previous year's income was abnormally swelled by fees for house-connections. These are the only five municipalities in the Province in which water-rates are levied. Proposals for the levy of a water-rate in Patna City and Muzaffarpur are under the consideration of the municipalities concerned.

Conservancy including scavenging and latrine rates (Rs. 3,70,363).

177. Better collection of conservancy rates, realization of arrears and general or partial revision of assessment resulted in an increase of Rs. 60,220 in the aggregate, the bulk of which was shared by the Municipalities of Ranchi (Rs. 12,466), Muzaffarpur (Rs. 7,672), Bhagalpur (Rs. 6,247), Cuttack (Rs. 5,454), Patna City (Rs. 4,961) and Monghyr (Rs. 4,254).

Contributions (Rs. 9,08,604).

178. There was an increase of Rs. 2,15,681 in the aggregate of contributions. The following considerable grants were made by Government towards capital outlay:—Rs. 2,10,000 to the Patna City Municipality (viz., Rs. 1,15,000 for the improvement of the conservancy and Rs. 95,000 for the combined waterworks scheme for the Municipality and the New Capital); Rs. 45,460 to the Gaya Municipality (viz., Rs. 44,000 for the improvement of the Cholera Hospital and the Masanghat road and Rs. 1,460 for Survey); Rs. 18,800 to the Ranchi Municipality for general improvements; and Rs. 7,000 to the Sahibganj Municipality for drainage.

It was reported that all the municipalities in the Orissa Division were in the habit of treating the grants from Government as a sort of floating Bank balance which might be drawn on for current expenses where slackness or other causes had let collections run low. This practice is most improper. The irregular practice of drawing from the Treasury towards the close of a financial year the savings of educational and other grants and passing them in the accounts as actual expenditure, has again been noticed by the Examiner of Local Accounts in his inspections of the Municipalities of Bihar, Chapra, Revelganj, Kishanganj, Giridih and Ranchi. This practice is particularly objectionable, because it tends to weaken control over expenditure and so affords facilities for fraud.

EXPENDITURE.

179. The aggregate outlay on establishment rose by Rs. 9,940. The percentage of the charge for general establishment on total ordinary expenditure was heavy in the municipalities of Lalganj (28·4) and Tikari (18·4). The purchase of stationery, cart registration tickets, etc., led to the increased expenditure at Lalganj; at Tikari the outlay remained heavy as in previous years and no improvement is apparently feasible owing to the peculiar conditions of the municipality and its small income. **Office and Collection Establishment (Rs. 1,70,459).**

180. The aggregate expenditure on lighting rose by Rs. 17,583 owing mainly to an increase in the price of oil and materials. The smallness of the outlay in Jamalpur (Rs. 54) is explained by the proposed introduction of electric lighting which, however, has been postponed for the present. Meanwhile the Municipal Commissioners have prepared a scheme for lighting the streets temporarily with ordinary kerosine lamps. **Lighting (Rs. 1,44,287).**

181. The total capital expenditure and the outlay on establishment, repairs, etc., rose by Rs. 3,612 and Rs. 9,703, respectively. **Water-supply (Rs. 4,21,604).**

Several sections of the combined scheme for Patna and the Patna Municipality are in progress. After protracted inquiries it has been decided to take the water required for Patna and the western part of the Patna Municipality from the deep wells now being sunk about a mile north-west of the High Court. The question whether the supply for the eastern part of the municipality can be obtained from the same source will depend on the results obtained when these wells are in actual use. In Muzaffarpur progress was retarded by the difficulty in obtaining the necessary materials, but the major portion of the work is completed. In Monghyr the Municipal Commissioners are considering the recommendation of the Sanitary Board to revert to the scheme for a fixed intake. In Bhagalpur one mechanical filter has been installed and the proposal to instal a second is under consideration. The question of extending the Railway water-supply at Jamalpur outside the Railway limits is still under discussion between the municipality and the East Indian Railway authorities. In Puri the results of further experiments made to test the quantity and quality of available water are under the consideration of Government. The possibility of obtaining pure drinking water for the town of Hazaribagh from the Kunar river has been investigated by the Public Works Department. It is reported that water sufficient in quantity for the needs of the town could be supplied by pumping from the river bed even when it appears to be dry on the surface.

The minor water-supply schemes referred to in the last year's Resolution have not advanced much further. Municipalities are not unnaturally reluctant to embark on new schemes while the price of plant and materials is almost prohibitive.

In the Province as a whole there is at present no marked progress in the preparation of water-supply or drainage schemes owing largely to the pre-occupation of the Sanitary Engineer and his staff with the water-supply and drainage schemes for Patna. Arrangements are now contemplated which will enable him to devote part of his time to other schemes also. Difficulty also arises from the inability of Government to make grants on the liberal scale of pre-war days and the shortage of materials. It is hoped that the Municipal authorities will devote themselves to a thorough consideration of the preliminaries necessary to such schemes so that when conditions improve and funds are available there may be no delay in their introduction.

PROTECTION.

Drainage (Rs. 2,14,927).

182. There was a net decrease of Rs. 1,98,778 in expenditure on drainage, of which Rs. 1,84,710 represented capital outlay and Rs. 14,068 establishment, repairs, etc. The decline in expenditure under this head was due to the fact that unusually heavy expenditure was incurred in many towns in the previous year.

New works were in progress in Gaya, Arrah, Motihari, Kishanganj and Sahibganj. The survey in connection with the Puri drainage has been completed. No progress has been made in regard to the scheme for Muzaffarpur, but the sewerage of a portion of the New Capital is under construction, and a section of the Patna Municipality drainage scheme has been sanctioned since the close of the year. The solution of certain practical difficulties in regard to the flushing of drains and sullage filters is engaging the attention of the Sanitary Engineer, and as soon as satisfactory results are attained, better progress is expected in the drainage schemes of the Municipalities of Arrah, Motihari and Monghyr.

Conservancy, including road-cleaning, road-watering and latrines (Rs. 6,59,550).

183. The bulk of the net increase of Rs. 44,339 in conservancy charges was shared by the Municipalities of Puri (Rs. 25,211), Patna City (Rs. 8,630), Cuttack (Rs. 8,490), Monghyr (Rs. 4,763), Chapra (Rs. 2,721) and Chaibassa (Rs. 2,608). Noticeable decline in the outlay occurred in the Municipalities of Bhagalpur (Rs. 4,045), Sambalpur (Rs. 3,262), Darbhanga (Rs. 2,811) and Gaya (Rs. 2,078). A scheme for the improvement of the conservancy arrangements in Bhagalpur is under the consideration of the municipality. In Sambalpur and Gaya the expenditure on works and equipment was less than in the previous year. At Hajipur a sub-committee, consisting of five Commissioners and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, was appointed to supervise the conservancy of the town and to control the expenditure on this account. Dr. S. N. Tiwari, Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Bihar and Orissa, who is now on deputation to the Patna Municipality, has worked out a scheme estimated to cost Rs. 1,25,000 for improving the conservancy arrangements of that municipality, and it is being introduced under his supervision. Several important schemes for the clearance of insanitary areas are under the consideration of the Patna City Improvement Trust.

Hospitals and Dispensaries (Rs. 5,75,625).

184. There was a decline of Rs. 613 in the aggregate expenditure on hospitals. Marked increase in outlay was incurred in the Municipalities of Purnea (Rs. 16,830), Roserah (Rs. 11,612), Daltonganj (Rs. 6,659), Puri (Rs. 5,729) and Bhagalpur (Rs. 5,706). In Purnea a surgical block and an operation room were constructed. In Roserah the increase of municipal expenditure under this head was necessitated by the action of the District Board in withdrawing Rs. 11,500 out of their grant for the new hospital building until municipal affairs are placed on a satisfactory footing; the increase at Daltonganj was due to the construction of quarters for an Assistant Surgeon and the purchase of instruments; at Bhagalpur the increase was due chiefly to the payment of compensation to persons whose houses were acquired for the hospital compound; the rise in Puri has not been explained.

The outlay in certain cases declined as the capital expenditure incurred in the previous year was not repeated. The falling off on this account is noticeable in Sambalpur (Rs. 17,253), Chapra (Rs. 12,598), Patna City (Rs. 8,145), Darbhanga (Rs. 6,625) and Buxar (Rs. 6,159).

The provincialization of the Patna General Hospital has been sanctioned by Government.

Plague and other epidemic disease charges (Rs. 16,767).

185. The municipalities in the Orissa and Chota Nagpur Divisions incurred no expenditure on plague and similar charges and the aggregate outlay in the three remaining divisions declined by Rs. 3,950. The bulk of the decrease (Rs. 2,528) occurred in the Patna Municipality where rat-killing operations were conducted on a smaller scale than in the preceding year. The municipalities which had the highest death-rates from plague were Jagdispur, Tikari, Daudnagar and Dinapore in which the ratio per thousand of population was 22·5, 22·0, 13·3 and 10·6, respectively. Most of the towns in the Tirhut Division enjoyed comparative immunity from plague.

Public Works (Rs. 3,30,158).

186. The net outlay on establishment increased by Rs. 1,142 while that on buildings, roads and stores fell by Rs. 11,174, Rs. 41,859 and Rs. 1,460,

respectively. More than 25 per cent of the total ordinary expenditure was devoted to public works in the Municipalities of Forbesganj (42·9), Bettiah (31·8), Lalganj (30·5), Hajipur (29·6) and Sitamarhi (26·5).

Public Instruction (Rs. 1,79,993).

187. The expenditure on public instruction rose in the Patna, Bhagalpur and Orissa Divisions and fell in Chota Nagpur and Tirhut. The net increase of Rs. 34,693 was due mainly to the construction of buildings for primary schools or the acquisition of land for this purpose out of the grants sanctioned by Government. Primary schools for boys were maintained or managed by the Municipalities of Gaya, Arrah, Bettiah, Bhagalpur, Sahibganj, Cuttack, Sambalpur and Giridih, and similar schools were aided by all the municipalities in the Province with the exception of Sahibganj. Primary schools for girls also received aid from all the municipalities, except those of Tikari, Sasaram, Madhubani, Dumka, Sahibganj, Sambalpur and Chatra. The Commissioner of the Orissa Division is considering how the money available for expenditure on education in the municipalities in his division can be spent to the best advantage, and has submitted proposals to the Director of Public Instruction for the revision of the present arrangement.

Loans.

188. The Muzaffarpur Municipality received from Government Rs. 44,000, representing the last instalment of the loan of Rs. 79,000 for its waterworks. The outstanding loan liabilities of the municipalities indebted to Government amounted to Rs. 7,70,950 on the 31st March 1917, as compared with Rs. 7,88,171 a year previously.

Unpaid Bills (Rs. 39,011).

189. Twenty-six municipalities as against thirty in the previous year had unpaid bills at the close of the year, but in no case, except at Jhalda, did the amount exceed the closing balance.

Audit of Accounts and embezzlements.

190. Siwan and Jajpur are the only municipalities in which embezzlements were reported. In Siwan the Head Clerk misappropriated Rs. 138-15-3 belonging to the Siwan Mehtar Co-operative Society and a sum of Rs. 33-1-3 drawn for payment to Messrs. Jessop and Company. In Jajpur the Accountant misappropriated contributions amounting to Rs. 270 of the Municipal employés to the Provident Fund. In both cases the accused were prosecuted and convicted. The Examiner of Local Accounts has made the following remarks in his annual report :—

"Frauds relating to the collection of taxes were rendered possible by lack of supervision on the part of the authorities, and by failure to observe the instructions and to apply the checks prescribed in Rule 58 of the Municipal Account Rules and Rules 40, 43, 44, 45 and 53 of Appendix A. Of the rules referred to above by far the most important is that laid down in Rule 53 of Appendix A, which requires that a comparison shall be made once every six months, or more often if the Commissioners desire it, of the entire balance of bills in hand and the blank spaces in the Bill Register, and this is the check which is generally omitted in practically every municipality, simply because it is a troublesome one. In fact, not only is this check neglected but lists of outstandings are not generally prepared and submitted to the local auditor for verification, although requests for them are made about a fortnight before they are required and even when they are presented they are generally found to be inaccurate. In view of the importance of this check it is regrettable to observe that the value of these lists of outstanding taxes is not sufficiently realized."

The audit of Municipal Funds is undertaken mainly in the interests of municipalities and for the protection of the rate-payers, and it is essential that the local bodies should give every possible assistance to the local auditors in the discharge of their duties. As a result of the Jajpur embezzlement the model provident fund rules have been amended with a view to fix on the Vice-Chairman more definite responsibility for the safe custody of the pass-book and the correctness of the ledger.

A proposal that municipalities should require their employés to furnish guarantee bonds of insurance companies in lieu of personal securities or of incompletely paid-up cash securities, was commended to the local bodies for adoption. It is hoped that this arrangement will provide an additional safeguard against any loss of municipal money by embezzlement.

General observations.

191. Progress in municipal matters for the present must necessarily be slow. Municipalities are unable to enter upon large schemes without greater financial assistance from Government than can be given during this period of financial stringency. The present time should be devoted to the careful examination and maturing of the projects of improvement to be undertaken in a more prosperous future.

A new Municipal Bill for Bihar and Orissa has been prepared and circulated to the local officers, municipalities and public associations for criticism. Bills to provide for the survey of municipalities and the prevention of adulteration of food are also under the consideration of Government.

There is still much room for improvement in the work of the Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors. Some officers of the former class were found to be incompetent and had to be removed. The working of the municipalities in the Orissa Division, especially those of Cuttack, Jajpur and Balasore, has been far from satisfactory. The affairs of the Roserah Municipality are in a thoroughly discreditable condition. Two-thirds of the Commissioners of that municipality are elected and the Commissioners enjoy the privilege of electing their Chairman. As a result of the Samastipur-Roserah-Khagaria extension of the Bengal and North-Western Railway the town is growing rapidly in importance and wealth, but simultaneously the tax on persons has continued to diminish owing to improper remissions and failure to make new assessments. After considerable hesitation the Commissioners reluctantly agreed to appoint a Government officer to make a complete revision of the assessment. The result was an increase of Rs. 1,353-12-0 in the tax on persons. The Commissioners appointed a sub-committee of ten of their number to hear objections to the assessment; and when the District Magistrate intervened and suspended the execution of this resolution, they reduced the number to five. The proceedings of this sub-committee resulted in the reduction of the tax below its original level, the reductions being largest in the cases of the Municipal Commissioners themselves. This final assessment was quite insufficient to provide for the adequate discharge of the Municipal administration, and the Lieutenant-Governor in Council found it necessary to convey to the Commissioners an expression of his disapproval and to call upon them to explain their conduct. They eventually expressed regret and promised to raise the assessment to a better level. There is, however, no legal power under the Bengal Municipal Act by which re-assessment can now be made and the tardy repentance of the Commissioners is of little value. The matter is still under the consideration of Government.

Puri Lodging House Act.

[Report on the working of the Puri Lodging House Act during the year 1916-17.]

Extent of application.

192. The Act was in force in the same towns and places as in the previous year.

Number of licensed Lodging Houses and lodgers.

193. In Gaya, there was an increase in the total number of licensed lodging houses as well as in the number of lodgers for whom accommodation was provided during the year. The figures rose from 296 and 18,844 to 374 and 26,155, respectively. In the Orissa Division the figures under these heads fell from 549 and 23,179 to 370 and, 17,522, respectively. The decrease is noticeable in all the districts, particularly in Puri, where it was chiefly due to restricted railway communication, the opening of new Dharamsalas and the inauspiciousness of the year according to the Hindu Calendar. In Deoghar the number of lodging houses was 94 with accommodation for 4,559 lodgers against 68 with accommodation for 2,856 lodgers in 1915-16.

Offences under the Act.

194. There were 211 prosecutions under the Act during the year and the total fines realized amounted to Rs. 3,931-8-0 against Rs. 4,024 in the previous year.

Income.

195. The total income of the lodging house funds during the year was Rs. 62,063 against Rs. 56,668. In Gaya the income rose from Rs. 21,292 to Rs. 32,158, whereas in the Orissa Division it fell from Rs. 33,617 to Rs. 26,636. There was an increase of Rs. 1,510 in Deoghar.

196. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 77,859 against Rs. 82,350 in the previous year. **Expenditure.**

197. The general health of the towns of Gaya, Puri and Deoghar was reported to be good. **Health and Sanitation.**

District Boards.

[From the Resolution on the working of District Boards in Bihar and Orissa during the year 1916-17.]

198. The number of District and Local Boards remained unchanged during the year. That of Union Committees rose from 24 to 27 owing to the formation of three new Unions at Maharajganj in Saran, Sultanganj in Bhagalpur and Balarampur in Manbhum. **Number of District and Local Boards and the Union Committees.**

199. The number of meetings held during the year by the eighteen District Boards in the Province, including the District Council of Sambalpur, was 292 against 281 in the previous year. Five of these fell through for want of a quorum against ten in the previous year. All the District Boards met at least once a month. The average percentage of attendance of official members varied from twenty-one in Muzaffarpur to eighty-six in Monghyr, and that of non-officials from twenty-six in Palamau to seventy-two in Puri. Non-official Vice-Chairmen have now been appointed in all District Boards. **District Boards. Number of meetings and attendance of members.**

200. Although the aggregate number of meetings held by the Local Boards fell from 504 to 492, the number which proved abortive for want of a quorum or which were adjourned decreased from thirty to twenty-six. The Local Boards of Buxar and Sasaram in Shahabad, Sitamarhi in Muzaffarpur, Kendrapara in Cuttack, Bhadrak and Sadr Local Board in Balasore, and Khurda in Puri, failed to reach the prescribed standard of one meeting a month. The Zamindari Local Boards in the district of Sambalpur, which should have met three times in the course of the year, again held only two meetings each as in the preceding year. The attendance of non-official members fell below forty per cent in the Sadr Local Boards of Sambalpur and Gaya and in the Local Board of Bihar in the district of Patna. The percentage of attendance of non-officials was highest in the case of the Patna Sadr Local Board (79 per cent). **Local Boards. Number of meetings and attendance of members.**

201. The two Local Boards in Saran and the three in Purnea were reconstituted during the year. **Re-constitution of Local Boards.**

202. In the Patna Division the Local Boards of Patna and Shahabad continued to exercise the same powers as before, while those in Gaya were further empowered to pay the staff employed in primary schools and to appoint and punish the Gurus, to prosecute for offences against the by-laws, to maintain and repair certain metalled roads and within certain limits to pass estimates for repairs. In the Tirhut Division, there has been no change in the powers of the Local Boards. In the Chota Nagpur Division, the control of the two Sub-Overseers at Giridih was delegated to the Local Board subject to inspection of their work by the District Engineer. The control of work on the Gomoh-Topchanchi road and of all the wells by the side of the Local Board roads in Dhanbad was added to the functions of the Dhanbad Local Board during the year. In the Orissa Division there was no change in the powers delegated to the Local Boards. They continued to manage pounds, ferries and primary schools and to look after village sanitation, water-supply, and the maintenance of village roads. **Work of the Local Boards.**

203. The aggregate income of Union Committees from all sources amounted to Rs. 44,356 as compared with Rs. 40,729 in 1915-16, and Rs. 25,522 in 1914-15, and the total amount expended by them was Rs. 39,214 as compared with Rs. 39,239 in 1915-16, and Rs. 20,857 in 1914-15. Of the twenty-seven Union Committees, twelve received contributions from the District Boards amounting to more than Rs. 600 a year, the amount which the Sanitary Conference of August 1913 suggested as the minimum contribution, and fourteen levied special taxes for sanitary purposes under section 118C of the Local Self-Government Act, yielding Rs. 17,852 against Rs. 14,163 in the previous year. **Union Committees.**

The activities of the Unions were confined, as before, almost entirely to sanitary measures and conservancy arrangements, occasional petty repairs

to roads, the management of pounds and the improvement of the supply of drinking water. It has been decided to convert the Union Committee of Dhanbad in the district of Manbhum into a Municipality. The Union Committees at Gopalganj in Saran, Bagaha in Champaran, and Dalsingsarai in Darbhanga were reconstituted during the year. The question of the expansion and development of Unions in all districts has still failed to receive that careful consideration which it requires and proposals for the formation of new Unions at suitable centres are still very few in number.

Financial Results.

204. The year opened with a credit balance of Rs. 19,79,855 and the total receipts of the District Boards from all sources amounted to Rs. 86,21,159. The aggregate amount available for expenditure was thus Rs. 1,06,01,014, of which Rs. 85,19,297 was spent, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 20,81,717.

The income and expenditure under the main heads of account during the past two years are compared below :—

INCOME.

	1915-16.		1916-17.	
	Amount.	Percentage of total income.	Amount.	Percentage of total income.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.		Rs.	
Land Revenue	9,570	·11	11,105	·12
Provincial Rates	51,69,007	62·5	55,42,258	66·8
Interest	36,138	·43	36,041	·41
Law and Justice...	19,871	·24	22,026	·25
Police (Pounds)	2,17,019	2·6	2,31,078	2·6
Education	8,97,260	10·8	9,12,461	10·5
Medical	78,308	·95	90,007	1·04
Scientific and other minor Departments	13,003	·16	17,708	·2
Receipts in aid of Compassionate Allowance ...	233	·002	233	·002
Stationery and Printing	3,352	·04	4,176	·04
Miscellaneous	16,768	·20	29,455	·34
Railways	9,659	·12	1,665	·01
Civil Works (including Ferries)	8,80,612	10·6	10,05,661	11·6
Loans	50,000	·60	50,000	·6
Deposits and Advances	8,67,706	10·5	6,67,285	7·74
Total ...	82,68,506	...	86,21,159	...

EXPENDITURE.

	1915-16.		1916-17.	
	Amount.	Percentage of total expenditure.	Amount.	Percentage of total expenditure.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.		Rs.	
Interest and Debt	15,382	·17	14,499	·17
Administration	1,86,745	2·03	1,92,659	2·26
Police (Pounds)	22,796	·25	13,752	1·6
Education	15,93,495	17·3	15,04,165	17·6
Medical	7,06,108	7·6	6,38,199	7·4
Scientific and other minor Departments... ...	1,14,889	1·2	1,09,262	1·2
Superannuation Allowances and Pensions ...	57,266	·62	80,337	·94
Stationery and Printing	39,793	·43	49,533	·58
Miscellaneous	17,701	·19	29,479	·34
Famine Relief	61,792	·67	80,182	·94
Railways	253	·003	13,256	·15
Civil Works (Public Works)	55,10,203	59·8	49,48,829	58·6
Repayment of Loans	74,681	·81	20,660	·24
Deposits and Advances	8,10,222	8·8	8,24,485	9·6
Total ...	92,11,326	...	85,19,297	...

INCOME.

205. (Rs. 11,105.)—The increase in Land Revenue was due chiefly to receipts from the tax levied by the Union Committees at Araria in the district of Purnea and Chas in the district of Manbhum, and to better collections by the Dhanbad Union Committee in Manbhum. **Land Revenue.**

206. (Rs. 55,42,258.)—The receipts under Provincial rates show a net increase of Rs. 3,73,251, which is shared by Patna and Shahabad (Rs. 1,11,627) in the Patna Division, Muzaffarpur, Champaran and Darbhanga (Rs. 45,974) in the Tirhut Division, Monghyr, Purnea and Bhagalpur (Rs. 56,461) in the Bhagalpur Division, Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Palamau and Singhbhum (Rs. 46,859) in the Chota Nagpur Division, and Cuttack, Balasore and Puri (Rs. 1,12,330) in the Orissa Division. Cess Revaluation proceedings accounted for the increase in Shahabad, Patna, Purnea and the above-mentioned districts of the Orissa Division. There was a marked improvement in the collections in all the districts of Tirhut, except Saran and of Chota Nagpur, except Manbhum. A decrease of Rs. 12,924 in Gaya is explained as being due to non-payment of cess by the seven-annas Tikari Raj for the March *Kist*, 1917, while a decrease of Rs. 4,567 in Manbhum is attributed to diminished profits from the collieries during the past two years. **Provincial Rates.**

207. (Rs. 2,31,078.)—The total number of pounds rose from 1,385 to 1,399, and the receipts from Rs. 2,17,019 to Rs. 2,31,078, a net increase of Rs. 14,059, which is attributed to larger receipts from the sale of unclaimed cattle, better collection of rents, and the enhanced rents of some of the pounds. **Police pounds.**

The system of triennial settlement of pounds remained in force in Saran and in the Supaul Subdivision of the Bhagalpur District, and was introduced during the year under review in the Banka Subdivision of the Bhagalpur District.

208. (Rs. 2,56,299.)—Receipts from ferries rose from Rs. 2,54,500 to Rs. 2,56,299. The fluctuations in individual districts call for no comment. **Ferries.**

The system of triennial settlement of ferries, which is in force in Saran, worked satisfactorily: it was tried in Champaran, but did not prove successful. In Muzaffarpur, settlements for more than a year were made where fair bids were obtainable. Elsewhere the Boards adhered to the system of annual settlements.

209. A sum of Rs. 50,000 was placed at the disposal of each Commissioner for augmenting the resources of the District Boards and District Committees, the distribution being left to the discretion of the Commissioners. A further sum of Rs. 10,000 was subsequently allotted to each of the Commissioners of Chota Nagpur and Orissa and Rs. 5,000 to the Commissioner of Bhagalpur Division for the same purpose. In addition, the following grants were made for specific purposes:— **Contributions.**

(1) To Palamau District Board:—
   - (*a*) Rs. 5,000 for the improvement of the Sarjughat road.
   - (*b*) Rs. 10,886 for the minor bridging of the Latihar-Niriasi section.
   - (*c*) Rs. 3,131 for the road from Daltonganj to Latihar.
   - (*d*) Rs. 3,000 for the Rud-Garu-Kechki road.
   - (*e*) Rs. 11,132 for the earthwork and gravelling of the Latihar-Niriasi section.

(2) To the District Board of Hazaribagh Rs. 40,000 for the construction of a road from Jamoa to Arkhango.

(3) To the District Board of Ranchi Rs. 25,000 for improvements to the Lohardaga-Sarguja road.

(4) To the Patna District Board Rs. 4,083 for the construction of a boundary ditch between the Patna District Board road and the Fatwah-Islampur Light Railway.

Grants for the improvement of water-supply in rural areas amounting to Rs. 44,177 were distributed among all the Divisions. The grants made by

Government for educational purposes aggregated Rs. 8,50,106 against Rs. 8,44,147 in the preceding year.

Loans.

210. (Rs. 50,000.)—The second instalment of Rs. 50,000 out of the loan of one lakh sanctioned for the construction of a bridge over the Kasai river was drawn by the District Board of Manbhum during the year. No loan was taken by any other District Board.

EXPENDITURE.

Administration.

211. (Rs. 1,92,659.)—There was a small increase of Rs. 5,914 in the aggregate expenditure under administration which was shared by all the Divisions.

Education.

212. (Rs. 15,04,165.)—There was a decrease in expenditure on education of Rs. 89,330 which was shared by all the District Boards, except Champaran, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Palamau and Manbhum. It was most noticeable in the Patna Division—Rs. 6,497 in Patna, Rs. 11,451 in Gaya and Rs. 22,837 in Shahabad. A reduction in the rates of the stipends paid to *gurus* of the primary schools and the abolition of Inspecting Pandits account for the decrease in Patna. In Gaya the construction of a large number of schools had caused abnormal expenditure. In Shahabad the expenditure of the year 1915-16 had been swelled by re-allotment of a considerable sum out of the unspent balance of the preceding year, while no such re-allotment was necessary in 1916-17. The minimum fixed by Government for expenditure on education was reached by all District Boards.

One hundred and eight Middle Schools were maintained and managed by District Boards against 107 in the preceding year; but the cost of their maintenance fell from Rs. 1,75,346 to Rs. 1,48,467. The number of primary schools maintained increased by sixteen with a consequent increase in expenditure from Rs. 67,419 to Rs. 84,198. The total sum paid in the form of grants-in-aid amounted to Rs. 11,16,839 against Rs. 11,29,522 in the previous year.

Special Schools.

213. The number of special schools chiefly maintained by District Boards rose from three to four, and the number of industrial schools fell from twelve to ten. Scholarships were awarded to students attending special schools, such as the Bihar School of Engineering, the Veterinary College at Belgachia, the Deaf and Dumb School, the Medical Colleges, the Government School of Art at Calcutta and the Government Weaving Institute at Serampore.

Medical.

214. (Rs. 6,38,199.)—The decrease of Rs. 67,909 in the total expenditure on medical relief and sanitation occurred in the districts of Shahabad, Saran, Darbhanga, Hazaribagh, Cuttack, Balasore and Puri. In Shahabad the decrease is accounted for by the sudden death of the District Engineer owing to which bills for the construction and repairs of dispensary buildings could not be paid within the year, while in Saran, Darbhanga, Hazaribagh and Cuttack the expenditure in 1915-16 had been abnormally high. In Balasore the decrease in expenditure was due mainly to the entertainment of the special cholera doctors for shorter periods and the purchase of a smaller quantity of medicine during the year. The decrease in Puri was insignificant.

The minimum fixed by Government for expenditure on Medical and Sanitary works was exceeded by all the Boards, except Shahabad, Hazaribagh, Ranchi and Manbhum.

The number of dispensaries maintained by District Boards rose from 141 to 154, and that of aided dispensaries from 79 to 88. New dispensaries were opened in Saran (3), Champaran (2), Purnea (2), Cuttack (1) and Balasore (1). In Shahabad, the travelling dispensary hitherto maintained by Government was taken over by the District Board and is reported to be doing good work. The District Board of Saran also took over the charge of three travelling dispensaries, formerly maintained at the cost of Government, and the travelling dispensary at Netarhat was taken over by the Palamau District Board.

Sanitation.

215. (Rs. 1,00,701.)—There was an increase of Rs. 4,824 in the expenditure on Sanitation as compared with that of the preceding year. The

largest expenditure was incurred in Gaya (Rs. 19,846), Patna (Rs. 14,945), and Bhagalpur (Rs. 13,107); the least was in Puri (Rs. 556).

The sanitary work done by the Boards included the cleansing of villages, disinfection of wells, improvement of water-supply and sanitary arrangements at *melas*. The question of framing rules under section 138 (*n*) of the Local Self-Government Act to regulate the powers and duties of District Boards and Sanitation Committees in regard to sanitation is under consideration.

Veterinary charges.

216. (Rs. 90,032.)—The total expenditure on Veterinary charges fell from Rs. 93,186 to Rs. 90,032. The small decrease was shared by the District Boards of Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Hazaribagh and Balasore. There is scope for a very large expansion of the work of this Department. Next to epidemics of plague, cholera, and other infectious diseases and to failure of crops, an epidemic among cattle is probably the greatest misfortune which can befall a district. District Boards should consider the best means to popularize and make known the work of the Veterinary Department and to extend its utility.

Pension.

217. (Rs. 45,468.)—The pensionary charges of District Boards showed a net increase of Rs. 6,339 which calls for no special comment.

Famine relief.

218. (Rs. 80,182.)—The expenditure on Famine Relief rose from Rs. 61,792 to Rs. 80,182 during the year under review. The District Board of Manbhum spent Rs. 70,547 and the Puri Board Rs. 4,400 on relief operations in distressed areas.

Railways and Tramways.

219. (Rs. 13,256.)—The District Board of Shahabad paid Rs. 13,256 in fulfilment of the guarantee given to the Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway for the year 1915-16. The prospects of this line have now so considerably improved as to permit a hope that the Board will have nothing to pay on this account for the year 1916-17 and that eventually its contract with the Railway Company will become a source of profit.

Civil Works.

220. (Rs. 49,48,829.)—The total outlay on Civil Works amounted to Rs. 49,48,829 against Rs. 55,10,203 in the preceding year. The net decrease of Rs. 5,61,374 was shared by the District Boards of Gaya, Shahabad, Champaran, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, Monghyr, Purnea, Manbhum, Ranchi and Cuttack.

The decrease in expenditure on Civil Works was most noticeable in the following districts:—

District.	Decrease.	Explanation.
1	2	3
Manbhum	Rs. 1,05,167	Absence of District Engineer on leave, his successor not being sufficiently acquainted with details of works in progress to spend the full allotment.
Shahabad	69,900	Postponement of original works on account of high prices of material due to the war.
Bhagalpur	62,984	Postponement of original works.
Champaran	61,833	Not explained.
Gaya	47,711	
Darbhanga	2,27,129	The expenditure was normal. In the year 1915-16 there had been abnormal expenditure on account of the utilization of previous unspent balances.
Monghyr	61,947	

The total expenditure on "Original works" and "Repairs" under the head "Communications" fell from Rs. 23,46,387 and Rs. 16,11,283 in 1915-16 to Rs. 18,58,016 and Rs. 15,83,608, respectively. There was an increase of Rs. 23,244 under the head "Buildings—Repairs".

The total mileage of metalled and unmetalled roads rose from 1,691 and 14,179 to 1,749 and 14,302, respectively, while there was a decrease of 15 in the mileage of village roads which is now 8,537. The average cost of maintenance of these three classes of roads was Rs. 419·7, 48·2 and 17·5 a mile, respectively.

The question of the improvement of inter-district communications has continued to receive attention in the Tirhut, Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur Divisions.

Railway feeder roads.

221. In Tirhut the expenditure incurred in maintaining feeder roads amounted to Rs. 2,566 in Saran, Rs. 89 in Champaran, Rs. 7,066 in Muzaffarpur and Rs. 3,788 in Darbhanga. In the Patna Division, the Gaya District Board spent Rs. 2,533 and Shahabad Rs. 19,031 under this head. The expenditure in the Bhagalpur Division in the districts of Monghyr and Bhagalpur was Rs. 73,834 and Rs. 9,235, respectively, and in Chota Nagpur, Hazaribagh, Manbhum and Ranchi spent Rs. 3,188, Rs. 7,860 and Rs. 12,584, respectively. In the Orissa Division, Cuttack spent Rs. 9,822 and Balasore Rs. 2,944 for this purpose. These figures are of little real value owing to the absence of uniformity in the system of classifying roads as railway feeders.

Water-supply and water-works.

222. (Rs. 2,11,561.)—The expenditure on water-supply shows a decline of Rs. 22,656. Increases occurred in the districts of Patna (Rs. 9,777), Champaran (Rs. 267), Muzaffarpur (Rs. 719), Bhagalpur (Rs. 2,933), Purnea (Rs. 499), Palamau (Rs. 2,374), Puri (Rs. 3,616) and Sambalpur (Rs. 3,159); while the following districts showed a decrease, viz.,—Shahabad (Rs. 8,356), Gaya (Rs. 3,287), Saran (Rs. 297), Darbhanga (Rs. 11,946), Monghyr (Rs. 2,757), Hazaribagh (Rs. 3,322), Ranchi (Rs. 1,441), Manbhum (Rs. 4,025), Cuttack (Rs. 8,496), and Balasore (Rs. 1,673). The Bhagalpur District Board has devoted Rs. 37,235 to this important object, chiefly in the construction of wells in the interior of the district. In the Tirhut and Bhagalpur Divisions, the Boards have given attention to the matter of taking over private wells, and this is also being considered by the Boards of Orissa Division. The Patna District Board took charge of 62 private wells and repaired them.

The minimum standard of expenditure fixed by Government (Rs. 5,000) for the improvement of rural water-supply was reached by all District Boards except Balasore.

Drainage.

223. (Rs. 46,064.)—On the construction of masonry roadside drains the District Board of Saran spent Rs. 4,301, Darbhanga Rs. 19,434, Monghyr Rs. 7,804, Manbhum Rs. 6,639 and Balasore Rs. 1,000. The expenditure by other Boards, except those in the Patna Division, was trifling.

Arboriculture.

224. (Rs. 53,455).—The total outlay under arboriculture showed a decrease of Rs. 6,184, and the District Boards of Shahabad, Saran, Champaran and Puri, and the District Council of Sambalpur failed to spend the minimum amount fixed by Government. The Boards of Saran, Muzaffarpur and Cuttack, each deputed a Sub-Overseer for training in arboriculture at the Royal Botanical Garden at Sibpur.

Closing Balances.

225. (Rs. 20,81,717.)—The aggregate closing balances excluding deposits, amounted to Rs. 17,58,200 against Rs. 12,95,257 in the preceding year. The actual balances were generally far in excess of the prescribed minimum.

The present circumstances are exceptional. Owing to the very high prices of steel work due to the war most Boards found it expedient to postpone expenditure upon bridging projects which were to have been undertaken during the year. The Boards acted rightly in postponing projects which involved the extensive use of steel work, but it is hoped that in framing further budgets

during the continuance of the war, they will take care to avoid increasing their balances unduly by providing for expenditure on other forms of work, such as brick or stone culverts, reinforced brickwork, road metalling and the like.

From their balances the following sums have been invested in the Indian War Loan Bonds by the Boards noted below:—

	Rs.
Patna	35,000
Gaya	50,000
Shahabad	1,00,000
Purnea	50,000
Bhagalpur	20,000

226. The District Boards have continued on the whole to do practical and useful work during the year. But it is doubtful whether they have all yet fully realized the increased opportunities afforded by the extra funds now placed at their disposal. The very large unspent balance with which many of the Boards open and close the financial year indicates that they have not yet learned to anticipate requirements or welcome prosperity when it arrives, the balances being altogether out of proportion to their income. There is in some cases also reason to fear that money is wasted by insufficient inspection of works under construction and by the haste with which District Boards are still apt to pass bills for payment towards the close of the financial year. The root of these defects is to be found in a defective system of budgetting. There is too great a readiness to accept any scheme proposed without proper examination of its real necessity and ultimate cost and to allot funds on a scale sufficient merely to start a work instead of to complete it within the budget year. The result is that a large number of works are started in different parts of the district and the construction of each of them is spread over two or three years. Consequently when the time for preparing the next budget comes, it is found that no provision can be made for really urgent works because of the necessity of providing funds to finish uncompleted works in progress. General observations.

A further disadvantage of this practice is that the District Engineer is required to supervise a very large number of works simultaneously in different parts of the district. The bills come in faster than he can pass them and at the close of the year he is reduced to the dilemma of seeing the sanctioned funds lapse or of passing bills hurriedly without proper check.

227. The Examiner of Local Accounts, in his Annual Report on the working of the Local Audit Department for the year 1916-17, has drawn attention to various defects and irregularities observed at the time of audit. The shortcomings noticed are much the same from year to year. A copy of the report has been circulated to all District Boards and explanations called for where necessary. The perfunctory manner in which the Finance Committees of the District Boards of Shahabad, Purnea and Puri conducted the audit of the monthly accounts is very unsatisfactory. Audit.

The maintenance of the Register of Lands is an old difficulty; and with few exceptions it has still not been completely written up to date in spite of repeated audit objections.

It is under contemplation to empower the District Boards to appoint Sanitary Officers of equal standing with the Municipal Health Officers whose duty it will be to deal with epidemic diseases, such as plague and cholera, to superintend the sanitation of fairs and bazars, and to supervise the work of a subordinate sanitary staff in rural areas. Little progress has as yet been made in the establishment of Union Committees in this Province. Training in Self-Government must begin from the bottom. In addition to the means it affords of procuring improved sanitation, the Union Committee offers the best practical school for the rural population to learn the sense of social inter-dependence and civic responsibility. Villages in which Co-operative Societies have flourished promise a good field for the establishment of Unions and the combination of a Co-operative Society and a Union Committee in the same village should produce fruitful results.

Acts.

228. The re-enactment of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, Act III of 1885, is still under consideration by Government.

Indian Defence Force.

229. During the year the Indian Defence Force Act, III of 1917, came into force. The existing volunteer corps, constituted under Act XX of 1869, were abolished and in their place units of the Indian Defence Force were created. The following units were in existence at the close of the year in Bihar and Orissa:—

1. Bihar Light Horse.
2. Chota Nagpur Light Horse.
3. St. Michael's School Cadet Corps.

Marine.

[Administration Report of the Orissa Ports.]

THE PORTS OF ORISSA.

Finance.

230. Trade at the Orissa ports continued to be affected adversely by the war. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 1,963 against Rs. 1,125 in 1915-16. The expenditure was Rs. 10,462 as compared with Rs. 11,743 in the previous year. In order that the fund might not close the year with a debit balance, a contribution of Rs. 8,904 was made from the Provincial revenues.

Trade.

231. As in last year the foreign trade ceased and there were no dutiable imports at any of the ports. There was not even any coasting trade at Cuttack and Puri. The value of coasting import trade at Balasore amounted to Rs. 14,36,230 against Rs. 16,85,560 and the exports to Rs. 11,89,857 against Rs. 15,69,788 in the preceding year.

Arrivals and departures.

232. The vessels entering the ports during the year numbered 90 with an aggregate tonnage of 14,251 against 126 with an aggregate tonnage of 25,589 in 1915-16. The number that left the ports was 89 with an aggregate tonnage of 14,088 against 126 with an aggregate tonnage of 24,534 in the previous year.

Inspections.

233. The ports were inspected several times by the Port Officer, Cuttack and Balasore. The Port Officer, Calcutta, visited them once during the year.

Health of the Ports.

234. The health of the ports was fairly good throughout the year.

Steam Boiler Commission.

Administration of the Act.

235. The administration of the Bengal Steam Boiler and Prime Movers Act of 1879, in those places in Bihar and Orissa in which the Act is in force, continues to remain in the hands of the Boiler Commission under the Government of Bengal.

Inspection of boilers.

236. The number of boilers inspected in the districts of this Province was 1,502 against 1,510 in 1915-16 and the fees realized on account of such inspections amounted to Rs. 26,852 against Rs. 27,253 in the preceding year.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[The Report of the Agricultural Department in Bihar and Orissa for the year ending the 30th June 1917.

Organization.

237. Owing to the deputation on military duty of the Deputy Director of Agriculture in charge of the Patna Circle, the Assistant Director from Bhagalpur was appointed to act in his place. The department is still working at a disadvantage owing to its inability to secure suitable candidates to fill up all the posts of District Inspectors sanctioned in the reorganization scheme; the result is that only 11 districts have as yet been provided with Inspectors working under the direct control of the Deputy Directors of Agriculture.

The system of disseminating practical agricultural knowledge through the agency of *Kamdars* (trained cultivators) has been expanded with satisfactory results in the Orissa, Bhagalpur and Patna Divisions, where the value of the demonstration given is reported to be increasingly appreciated by cultivators.

Agricultural Stations.

238. The work done in the five regular stations as well as at the three smaller farms under the supervision of the Department was largely experimental and covered a variety of crops. Some useful demonstration work was done, more especially at the Cuttack and Sambalpur farms. The general policy of the Department in regard to the working of these farms was re-examined in the course of the year, and it was decided that more concentration on the main crops of the particular area was desirable, and that a clearer line should be drawn between experimental and demonstration work, to the latter of which only is it desirable that the attention of the local cultivators should be directed. Work in connection with sugarcane selection was continued at the Sepaya farm which is primarily and mainly a cattle farm. No further progress could be made with the project for the establishment of a separate sugarcane station in Tirhut for which a suitable site has not yet been obtained. Schemes for the establishment of more demonstration and experimental farms at or near each district headquarters could not be proceeded with owing to the financial stringency and lack of staff.

Agricultural Education.

239. The percentage of passes from the Sabour College has been very disappointing. This result is ascribed to the inadequate knowledge of English possessed by the majority of matriculates admitted. The offer of Government scholarships to agriculturists, coupled with the simplification, and reduction in the length of the College course, at first seemed to promise an increase in the applications for admission, but this result has not persisted. So far as the Department is directly concerned, the consequence of this apparent disinclination on the part of the educated classes of the Province to take up Agriculture as a vocation is that the problem of filling up vacancies, even in the subordinate branches of the service, is becoming a serious one. At the suggestion of the Director of Agriculture the Local Government have now sanctioned a scheme under which a selected number of boys, having a fair knowledge of English and elementary mathematics, are to be granted allowances in order to undergo a preliminary training on the Agricultural farms for a year or so before admission to the Provincial Agricultural College, with a view to their ultimately qualifying for appointment in the Department. It is hoped that the students admitted to the college under this scheme will be more capable of benefitting by the instruction imparted there and that a sufficient number of recruits will in this way be attracted to the Agricultural Department to fill up the District Inspectorships and other sanctioned posts.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Research and experiments.

240. Activities in regard to experimental and research work were mainly confined to the Chemical and Entomological sections. In the former, in addition to the usual routine work upon manures, feeding stuffs and general agricultural produce, Mr. Taylor has continued work on the new colour test for aconitic acid in the juice of the sugarcane. Experiments have also been made with apatite, which is now available at Tata's Iron and Steel Works in Singhbhum, and they indicate a possibility that the application of pure apatite to soils poor in phosphate may give increased yields. Numerous varieties of selected and exotic sugarcanes were analysed for sugar content.

In the Entomological section, the campaign against "Agrotis Ypsilon" was continued at Ghogha and Colgong, and over 600,000 parent moths and caterpillars were destroyed by traps and hand picking.

The demand for seed of Pusa No. 12 wheat was far in excess of the amount which the Department was able to supply, but arrangements have been made to secure a very much larger supply for the season of 1917-18. In view of the importance of the crop from an international point of view, efforts are now being made, largely by means of advances of Pusa wheat, to increase the area under wheat in the Province. The superiority of Kakaya Jute No. 7, selected by Mr. Finlow in Bengal in the previous year, was successfully demonstrated at eleven centres in the Purnea District and it is hoped to have available for distribution next season sufficient seed for 2,000 acres.

Agricultural Associations, Fairs and Shows.

241. The District Agricultural Inspectors, where they have been appointed, work in close connexion with the Associations in their respective districts and are generally reported to have worked well and where these were available, to have made full use of the Co-operative Societies in the matter of distributing improved seed and carrying on demonstration work. The Director of Agriculture reports that some of the District Associations in the Province have done signal service in the cause of agriculture though there are others which have done little or nothing. The latter class require to be reconstituted so as to include a larger number of members who may be expected to take a real and practical interest in Agriculture, and it is hoped that the presidents, with the aid of the Deputy Directors, will be able to bring about this result.

Fourteen agricultural shows and fairs were held and they received grants-in-aid aggregating Rs. 4,250. At most of these departmental exhibits were shown and the more important of them were attended by the Deputy or Assistant Directors, as well as by the District Agricultural Inspectors. There is ground for hoping that the majority of these shows are gradually becoming, so far as agriculture is concerned, something more than a mere occasion for festivity and social gathering, and that useful and practical object-lessons are thereby brought home to some members of the agricultural community.

Agricultural Engineering and Well-boring.

242. In the absence of an Agricultural Engineer, whose appointment has been postponed till the close of the war, Mr. Taylor, the Agricultural Chemist, continued to direct the operations of the Department, which were confined to the Tirhût and Bhagalpur Divisions. The number of borings completed was 38 against 34 in the previous year and would no doubt have been greater had not the cost of wells risen enormously owing to the increase in the price of casing tubes.

Owing to the success which has attended the experimental borings in the Bihar districts, it has been decided to extend the operations, and Orissa has been included in the current year's programme.

Publication of Agricultural information.

243. In addition to the periodical reports and returns, the Department published in its half-yearly Journal, which has lately been suspended temporarily during the continuance of the war, some interesting articles on agricultural matters by the College Staff at Sabour and the Deputy Directors of Agriculture of the Chota Nagpur and Patna Circles.

Arboriculture.

244. Arboricultural work continued to receive adequate attention from the District Boards and Road Committees in the Province, most of which spent more than the minimum fixed by the Government for this work.

Fisheries.

245. The Department of Fisheries, which is common to the two provinces of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, was separated from the Agricultural Department towards the close of the year, the head of the Department being designated "Director of Fisheries". The activities of the Department were directed mainly to the investigation of the spawning habits of Indian carp of rivers, experimental culture of this fish in tanks, investigations of the breeding habits and grounds of *hilsa* and the distribution of pure carp fry, for which there is a continually increasing demand. The investigations carried out in regard to *hilsa* again failed to produce any decisive results, but it is understood that since his report was submitted, Mr. Southwell has at last succeeded in artificially breeding *hilsa*. The Department has been able to organize a Co-operative Society of Fishermen at Rajmahal, and it is hoped to start similar societies for the fishermen in the neighbourhood of the Chilka Lake and of the Balasore foreshore fisheries.

Veterinary Department.

[Report of the Civil Veterinary Department in Bihar and Orissa for 1916-17.]

246. The number of students from Bihar and Orissa admitted into the Bengal Veterinary College at Belgachia was 17 as compared with 27 in the previous year and 11 in 1915-16. Although the local bodies offered a larger number of stipends and in several cases increased their value, there was no great response and no noticeable improvement in the standard of education of the successful applicants. Out of 21 boys, including four plucked students of the previous year, who appeared at the Final Examination, only 14 passed, while of the five Government stipends for boys from Chota Nagpur and Orissa, three remained vacant owing to the lack of suitable candidates. These results are disappointing, but service in the Department is not at present sufficiently attractive to induce students to join the college in any considerable numbers, the pay being low and the work exacting. A scheme for the reorganization of the Department has recently been drawn up and matters will, it is hoped, improve when the scheme is sanctioned and comes into force. **Veterinary instruction.**

247. Although six new graduates of the Bengal Veterinary College were appointed to the Subordinate Staff as Veterinary Assistants, the net increase in that staff at the end of the year was two only owing to the resignation of two assistants, the death of one and the transfer to the United Provinces of another. The number of Inspectors remained the same as in the previous year. **Organization and Staff.**

248. The arrangements for reporting outbreaks of epidemic diseases appear to have worked satisfactorily on the whole. As in previous years, Rinderpest and Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia were the chief causes of cattle mortality. The former was responsible for 19,144 and the latter for 5,584 out of the 26,107 deaths from contagious diseases of all kinds reported during the year. Rinderpest appeared in most of the districts of the Province, the number of outbreaks reported being 1,829, of which about half were attended to by Veterinary Assistants. The number of outbreaks of all kinds of contagious diseases brought to the notice of the staff was 4,513, and help was given in 1,850 cases as compared with 1,631 in the previous year. The proportion is still unduly low, but the Department is handicapped by an inadequate staff, and it was frequently found necessary to draft Assistants to distant districts for considerable periods, while less serious outbreaks, occurring in their own jurisdictions, had to remain unattended. The absence of a reserve of Veterinary Assistants is a serious drawback to effective dealing with outbreaks and it is hoped that within a few years it will be possible to fill the vacancies in the sanctioned staff from among the students now under training at the Bengal Veterinary College. **Cattle-diseases.**

In spite of the difficulties above mentioned, there was an increase of 30,000 in the number of animals inoculated against contagious diseases by the Departmental staff. Great help was given in connection with this work

by district officials and by many leading zamindars and important cultivators, though some opposition was experienced from landholders in the Patna and Gaya districts. The scheme for inoculating cattle through the agency of a special staff of locally-trained inoculators, which was introduced as an experiment in 1913, was in force throughout the Ranchi District; and though the number of inoculations for both Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia and Rinderpest shows a falling off in some parts of the district, a considerable measure of success was obtained where the Missionaries took an active interest in the work of the inoculators. The Local Government have decided to continue the scheme in a modified form with a smaller staff working over a more limited area, and the Director of Agriculture has been asked to submit a further report on the subject before the close of the year.

Dispensaries.

249. The number of hospitals remained the same as in the previous year but the one at Dumraon had to be closed for want of a Veterinary Assistant. The number of in and out-patients treated in these hospitals during the year was 28,180 against 26,213 of the previous year.

Breeding operations.

250. The Government cattle-breeding farm at Sepaya continued to do useful work. The number of the herd at the close of the year was 256 as compared with 204 at the close of 1915-16. Of the eight young bulls of breeding age for disposal in the farm, seven are being distributed to local bodies and one is being kept in the farm as a prospective stud bull. A proposal to acquire, at an estimated cost of half a lakh of rupees, an additional 150 acres of land to provide adequate grazing ground for the full strength of the herd, has recently been sanctioned.

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the year ending the 31st May 1917.]

General Progress.

251. The table below summarizes the progress of Societies of all kinds made during the year ending on the 31st May 1917 :—

SUMMARY OF GENERAL PROGRESS.

Year.	Societies.			Total.	Remarks.
	Central.	Non-Agricultural.	Agricultural.		
1	2	3	4	5	6
			Number of Societies.		
1915-16	20	55	1,221	1,296	
1916-17	21	65	1,337	1,423	
	+1	+10	+116	+127	
			Membership.		
1915-16	1,956*	7,995	51,459	61,410	* Including 865 individual members.
1916-17	2,361	10,106	56,200	68,667	
	+405	+2,111	+4,741	+7,257	
			Working Capital.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1915-16	20,72,958	2,16,749	20,37,795	43,27,502	
1916-17	22,55,335	3,01,056	21,61,057	47,17,448	
	+1,82,377	+84,307	+1,23,262	+3,89,946	

The aggregate working capital thus showed an increase of nearly four lakhs of rupees. During the year under review the operations of the Department continued to be directed mainly to consolidation rather than to expansion. Only one new Central Bank was registered and 221 agricultural societies, of which 105 did not start work before May 31st and so are excluded from the statistics. The number of members of agricultural societies rose from 51,459 to 56,420 and their aggregate working capital from Rs. 20,37,795 to Rs. 21,61,057. Non-agricultural societies showed an increase of nearly 20 per cent in numbers and of 40 per cent in working capital. The substantial sum of Rs. 1,16,786 was invested by Societies in the War Loan.

252. The Provincial Bank was of considerable assistance to the Central Banks in acting as a buffer between them and the money market since in spite of the general rise in rates of interest it was able to supply all their wants at the same fixed rates as before. The Working Capital of the Bank increased from Rs. 3,84,361 to Rs. 4,13,875 while the net profit decreased from Rs. 6,049 to Rs. 5,142 but the reserve fund now amounts to Rs. 7,502 against Rs. 4,516 last year. This check in expansion was due to the small number of societies organized and the systematic collection of arrears from members. The small profit of the Bank was due to the high official rates of the Bank of Bengal as compared with the pre-war average rates. The progress was on the whole satisfactory. **Provincial Bank.**

253. The number of Central Societies other than the Provincial Bank rose from 20 to 21 and their working capital from Rs. 16,88,597 to Rs. 18,41,460. The number of affiliated Societies rose from 1,066 to 1,231. Their paid-up share capital aggregated Rs. 2,50,185 and their reserve Rs. 61,410 as against loans and deposits amounting to Rs. 15,32,801. With four exceptions all the Central Banks displayed great activity and made substantial progress in the improvement of societies in their respective areas. The Directors seem more and more to realize and to act up to their responsibilities. The policy of introducing paid managers in all Central Banks which can afford to maintain them was steadily pursued and eleven Banks have now paid Managers or Assistant Secretaries. Most of these went through a course of training at Sabour. Another important reform was that each Bank was made to draw up a clear routine of work for the whole year. **Central Banks.**

254. The number of agricultural societies almost entirely of the Raiffeisen type increased from 1,221 to 1,337. Of these 1,231 were affiliated to Central Banks, leaving only 106 societies controlled by private workers. The number of members and the total working capital rose from 51,459 and Rs. 20,37,795 to 56,200 and Rs. 21,61,057, respectively, while the reserve fund increased from Rs. 2,09,190 to Rs. 2,86,536. Deposits by members increased from Rs. 1,16,571 to Rs. 1,90,935. The Chota Nagpur Catholic Mission Society which is the largest of these Societies, has now 11,016 members with a working capital of Rs. 1,41,399 against 10,710 members with a working capital of Rs. 1,20,214 in the previous year. The Society displayed remarkable activity in furnishing within a short time 2,000 recruits for a Labour Corps for France and invested a sum of Rs. 27,000 in the War Loan. The German Evangelic Lutheran Mission Societies have not added to their number since last year and their condition is not very hopeful as there is hardly any co-operation between the members. A vigorous campaign was carried out against bad and wilful defaulters and a systematic attempt made to teach business habits and Co-operative principles. One of the methods of training adopted was to have annual general meetings presided over by one of the paid staff of the bank or by one of the directors or an honorary supervisor. Periodical examinations of inspecting clerks were introduced and the services of those who failed to pass two consecutive examinations were dispensed with. The result is that these clerks are now much better equipped for their task. Vigorous efforts were made to reduce heavy arrears. While the total loans made during the year decreased by Rs. 27,438, the actual repayments increased by Rs. 1,64,695 and the percentage of the demand to total dues was 56 per cent against 50 per cent in the previous year. **Agricultural Societies.**

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Non-Agricultural Societies.

255. The number of non-agricultural Societies rose from 55 to 65 but their work was again disappointing. As a rule the members displayed little interest in their Societies and there was an entire absence of the spirit of mutual helpfulness.

Other forms of Co-operation.

256. There are four Societies which deal in stores. The one at Nawadah has practically done no business. The Secretariat Stores at Ranchi is not well-supported although its position is financially safe. The Chota Nagpur Catholic Stores at Ranchi continues to do a considerable amount of business. The Ranchi Weavers' Stores was organized by the Ranchi Union for the welfare of their weaver members. The object is to supply yarn to the weavers at cheap rates and provide them with a ready market for the sale of their finished products. The Weaving Demonstrator is the Manager of the Stores. The finished products find a ready sale in Assam and the Duars, being largely worn by the coolies recruited from Chota Nagpur for the tea gardens.

There was no increase in the number of Weavers' Societies. The industry has been very badly affected by the war and most of the Weavers are maintaining a precarious existence owing to the high prices of yarn and dyeing materials.

The Christian Toli Carpenters' and Blacksmiths' Societies organized at Bettiah have made a good start but the Mochi Society at Ranchi appears to be dying a natural death owing to mutual distrust and want of co-operation.

There was no material improvement in the condition of the two Dairy Societies, viz., the Mangla Gouri Dairy Society at Gaya and the Nayaganj Gowala Society in Bhagalpur and their condition is still rather precarious.

A unique line in Co-operative effort was the formation of a Co-operative dispensary at Fatwa in Patna district with the result that medical help has been brought within the reach of every one in the locality.

Co-operation and Agriculture.

257. Ten breeding bulls were obtained from the Government Farm at Sepaya and distributed to the Societies for the improvement of the village stock. Pusa wheat No. 12 bids fair to oust the country wheat altogether from the lands owned by the members. Groundnuts were also introduced in various areas. A large quantity of castor cakes was sold to members of Co-operative Societies in Bihar. In Nawadah area a number of irrigation wells were sunk and for this purpose long-term loans at specially reduced rates were granted. Co-operative Societies were the means, by their example, of breaking down the prejudice against cattle inoculation.

Moral and material effects.

258. The Co-operative movement is saving the raiyats from the clutches of the professional money-lenders by furnishing an agency which supplies credit at low rates of interest. It promises to supplant the old village Panchayat system by supplying to the village a bond of union and it has also created a demand for education in places where Societies have been started.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bihar and Orissa, 1916-17. Crop Forecast of Bihar and Orissa, 1916-17. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India, 1916-17.]

Character of the season.

259. There was practically no rain in March. In April the rainfall was above the normal in the Tirhut and Bhagalpur Divisions and in Manbhum, but it was defective elsewhere. In May it was in defect in all districts except in Angul, where it was slightly above the normal. In June the rainfall was above the normal everywhere and heavy in parts of Orissa. In July the rainfall was above the normal in Shahabad and in the districts of the Tirhut and Bhagalpur Divisions except the Santal Parganas and below the normal in Orissa and Chota Nagpur. In August the rainfall was above the normal in Patna, Gaya, Saran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Angul, Sambalpur and Manbhum, and below the normal elsewhere. In September the rainfall was above the normal in Bihar and below it in the Orissa and the Chota Nagpur districts except Hazaribagh. In October the rainfall was above the normal everywhere and was heavy in most districts of the Bhagalpur, Orissa and Chota Nagpur Divisions. In November it rained in all the

districts of the Province except Shahabad, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga and Purnea. The fall was above the normal in Orissa, Chota Nagpur and in the Santal Parganas and below the normal elsewhere. December was rainless. In January rain fell in all the districts of the Province except Cuttack, Angul, Puri, Sambalpur, and Singhbhum. The fall was below the normal everywhere. In February the rainfall was below the normal in Shahabad, Palamau, and in the districts of the Bhagalpur Division, was normal in Patna and Darbhanga, and above the normal in the remaining districts. The rainfall was defective in the early part of the year but was abundant during the monsoon which was generally favourable for the growth of the *bhadai* and *aghani* crops. Deficient rain in the beginning of the season affected the *bhadai* crops to some extent in parts of Orissa and Chota Nagpur and the heavy rain and consequent floods in July, August and September also did some damage to the crops in several districts of Bihar. The good *hathiya* rain was, however, of some benefit to the *bhadai* crops and specially to the winter rice crop, which yielded a bumper outturn in some districts. It also provided ample, and in some areas excessive, moisture for the sowing of *rabi* crops. The rainfall in February benefited these crops generally and the outturn was above or equal to normal in most districts. The outturn of the *bhadai* crops for the Province as a whole was estimated at 90 per cent of the normal, of the winter rice crop at 110 per cent, of wheat at 105 per cent, of oilseeds at normal, i.e., 100 per cent and of other *rabi* crops at 110 per cent of the normal.

The table below shows the estimated area and outturn in 1916-17 of *bhadai*, winter and *rabi* crops in comparison with the corresponding revised estimates of the previous year and of a normal year :—

Name of harvest.	Normal area in acres.	Area in acres cultivated during 1915-16.	Area in acres cultivated during 1916-17.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn how much represented the outturn for the year—	
				1915-16.	1916-17.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Bhadai	9,077,400	8,658,000	8,386,800	84	90
Winter — Winter rice ...	12,091,100	12,426,600	12,565,400	110	110
Winter — Sugarcane and other crops.	599,300	602,600	544,800	94	97
Rabi	11,797,000	9,983,800	10,218,200	92	108
Total ...	33,564,800	31,671,000	31,715,200	97	104

260. Weather conditions were not favourable in the beginning of the season in parts of Orissa and Chota Nagpur where the outturn of the crops was affected to some extent owing to the deficient rainfall. The rainfall was subsequently abundant but excessive rain and floods caused some damage in certain districts of Bihar, especially in Shahabad, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur and Purnea. The outturn of the *bhadai* crops for the Province as a whole was estimated at 90 per cent of the normal against 84 per cent in the preceding year. The total area under *bhadai* food-crops was estimated at 7,932,200 acres as compared with 8,240,700 acres of last year and a normal area of 8,452,800 acres. The total area sown with all the different kinds of *bhadai* non-food-crops including jute and indigo was estimated at 454,600 acres as compared with 417,300 acres of last year. *Bhadai* crop.

261. The weather conditions were on the whole unfavourable in the important jute-growing districts. In March there was practically no rain. In April the rainfall was above the normal in the jute-growing districts, except Jute.

in Cuttack and Balasore, where it was below the normal. In May it was defective everywhere. The absence of rain early in the season retarded sowings. The rainfall in June was in excess of the normal in all the jute districts and facilitated sowing and improved prospects to a great extent. In Cuttack, however, the fall was excessive and further retarded sowings. The rainfall in July was very heavy in Purnea and Bhagalpur, where the crop was adversely affected by the excessive rain and consequent floods. Damage was also caused by continuous rain and floods in the Santal Parganas. In Cuttack the rainfall was much below the normal and the growth of the crop was stunted. In August the rainfall was slightly above the normal in Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur and below the normal in the remaining districts. The heavy floods which occurred in Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur in the second week of September caused no appreciable damage to the crop. The area under jute in the Province was 224,000 acres against 188,100 acres of the previous year. The outturn of the crop for the Province was estimated at 82 per cent of the normal as against 108 per cent last year. The gross yield of the crop for the Province was 552,000 bales as against 609,600 bales of last year.

Indigo.

262. Indigo is cultivated in eight districts of Bihar, chiefly in the Tirhut Division. In the important districts of North Bihar the weather conditions were on the whole normal before the harvesting time, although some damage was done by drought in May and June. The harvesting began at the usual time but some of the second cuttings were destroyed by floods and the outturn in places was affected to some extent. Owing to the high prices still ruling for indigo there was a large increase in acreage and according to the estimates of the District Officers the area sowed was 80,600 acres against 60,800 acres of the previous year and the total yield of the crop worked out to 16,292 factory maunds (1,216,500lbs.) against 10,584 factory maunds (790,300 lbs.) of the previous year.

***Aghani* crops.**

263. *Winter Rice.*—Weather conditions were on the whole favourable. In parts of Orissa and Chota Nagpur rainfall was in defect in the beginning of the season and transplantation was late. There was abundant rain subsequently, the good *hathiya* rainfall was of immense benefit and the outturn was well over the normal in several districts. Heavy rain attended with strong winds towards the end of October, however, damaged the crop to some small extent in the coast districts of Orissa. The outturn of the crop for the Province as a whole was estimated at 110 per cent of the normal against the same figure, the estimate of the previous year.

Sugarcane.

264. Sugarcane is cultivated chiefly in Bihar. Outside Bihar the crop is important in Manbhum and Hazaribagh. Weather conditions were generally favourable but the growth of the plant was affected to some extent by excessive rain in parts of Gaya, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, the Santal Parganas and Hazaribagh. Some damage was done by insects in Shahabad and Saran. The outturn of the crop for the Province as a whole was estimated at normal, i.e., 100 per cent as against 90 per cent of the previous year.

***Rabi* crops.**

265. Bihar is the chief *rabi*-growing tract, but *rabi* crops are also important in Cuttack and in parts of Chota Nagpur. The rainfall in September and October, though excessive in some districts, was on the whole beneficial. The good rainfall in February was of material benefit to the crop generally since the season was a late one. The outturns were satisfactory except in parts of Orissa where the crops suffered from excessive rain in November. Some damage was done to the wheat crop by a hail-storm in parts of Champaran and Monghyr. The heavy rainfall in May was also responsible for slight damage to the crops on the threshing floor. The total area of *rabi* food-crops including wheat amounted to 8,044,700 acres against 7,943,500 acres of the preceding year. The area sown with different *rabi* non-food-crops was 2,173,500 acres against 2,040,300 acres, the estimate of the previous year. The outturn of the wheat crop was estimated at 105 per cent, of oilseeds at 100 per cent, and of other *rabi* crops at 110 per cent of the normal.

266. The early cotton crop is most important in Ranchi and the Santal Parganas. The less important districts are Angul, Sambalpur and Manbhum. Sowings began in normal time and the weather conditions were generally favourable. The outturn was affected to some extent by excessive rain in September and October in parts of Angul, Hazaribagh and Manbhum. The late variety is chiefly cultivated in North Bihar, Cuttack, Manbhum and Singhbhum. The weather conditions were favourable on the whole and the condition of the crop was reported to be fair. The area under the early and late varieties of the cotton crop in the Province was 68,000 acres against 67,300 acres of the previous year and the outturn of the crop (both early and late) for the Province as a whole including the Native States, worked out to 17,095 bales against 16,981 bales, the revised estimate of last year. **Cotton.**

Forests.

[The Annual Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1916-17.]

267. The superior cadre of the Forest Department is admittedly inadequate and as the two additional posts in the Imperial Service sanctioned by the Secretary of State in the year 1915 remained unfilled, and the latest recruit, Mr. Nicholson, was employed on military duty throughout the year, the administration of the Circle was in consequence seriously hampered. Proposals for strengthening the cadre, both of the superior and subordinate services, are under preparation. The area under the control of the Forest Department at the close of the year consisted of 1,746 square miles of reserved forests and of 1,066 square miles of protected forests. Except the addition of 12,373 acres of land in Sambalpur referred to in the previous year's report there was no change in the area of reserved forests. **Administration.**

In the Chaibassa Division an area of 5,393 acres of land was demarcated and declared protected forest. Proposals for the gradual demarcation of portions of the Angul forests with a view to more adequate protection have been sanctioned and five blocks were selected and demarcation started during the year.

268. A sum of Rs. 69,310 was spent on the construction and repair of roads and buildings and other works against Rs. 60,635 in the previous year. Fifty miles of new cart roads and thirteen miles of new bridle paths were constructed at a cost of Rs. 24,326 and Rs. 410, respectively, as compared with thirty-four miles of cart roads and twelve miles of bridle paths during the previous year. The total expenditure on new buildings was Rs. 16,243, or about the same as in the previous year, the programme being still restricted with a view to economy. **Communication and buildings.**

269. The total number of forest offences reported was 1,447, the same number as in the previous year, which is 136 above the average of the three preceding years. The percentage of convictions obtained in courts was 87 against 91 in the previous year. An increase in unauthorized fellings occurred in the Singhbhum, Sambalpur and Santal Parganas Divisions; it was mainly due to the scarcity in Singhbhum and to better detection in Sambalpur. One thousand one hundred and fifty-eight cases were compounded against 1,073 in the previous year. **Forest offences.**

270. The year was an exceptionally favourable one for fire protection. The area actually saved from fire was 98·67 per cent of the area in which protection was attempted which was 1,112,372 acres. These figures differ but little from those of the previous year. There were 60 outbreaks of fire covering an area of about 14,809 acres, compared with 86 outbreaks affecting 43,096 acres in 1915-16. **Protection from fire.**

271. The area of reserved forests open to grazing was increased by 16 square miles and the area closed to grazing by 3 square miles. There were 152 cases of illicit grazing while the number of cattle impounded fell from 833 to 542. **Protection against injuries from natural causes and from cattle.**

Storms did considerable damage especially to Sal and Asan trees, in the Santal Parganas, and to a lesser extent in the Palamau and Porahat Divisions. Drought was fortunately not severe. Considerable damage is again reported to

have been done by wild elephants in Angul where Khedda operations had been postponed.

Financial results.

272. In spite of difficulties due to inadequate staff and other causes there was again an increase of revenue in the Circle, the revenue, expenditure and surplus being Rs. 5,61,667, Rs. 4,47,859 and Rs. 1,13,808, respectively, against Rs. 5,56,172, Rs. 3,68,287 and Rs. 1,87,885 in the previous year and an average of Rs. 4,90,993, Rs. 3,56,936 and Rs. 1,34,057 over the last five years. The high expenditure and diminished surplus were due to the payment of Rs. 72,458 to the proprietor of the Porahat Estate on account of surplus revenue of the Porahat forests for the quinquennial period ending with the year 1915-16.

Manufactures and Mines.

[Statistics of British India, Part I.—Industrial.]

Jute.

273. The area under jute was estimated at 224,000 acres against 188,100 acres in the previous year. The gross outturn was in round figures 552,000 bales against 609,600 bales of the previous year. Prices were favourable to the cultivators.

Indigo.

274. The area under indigo was 80,600 acres against 60,800 acres in the previous year. The gross outturn was 16,292 factory maunds against 10,584 in 1915-16. Much difficulty was experienced in bringing the product to market owing to lack of freight and competition by analytic dyes manufactured in Great Britain. Prices were lower than in 1915.

Tea.

275. There were 21 gardens in Ranchi and one in Hazaribagh. The area under tea in 1916 was in Ranchi 2,070 acres and in Hazaribagh 90 acres. The outturn of tea (black and green) was 399,971lbs. against 293,207lbs. in 1915.

Sugar.

276. The total output of sugar produced by the Sugar refineries in the Tirhut Division and in Shahabad and Monghyr is reported to be 592,803 maunds against 383,741 maunds, the revised figure of the previous year. The Sugar refineries worked well and profitable prices were obtained.

A considerable quantity of cane grown in this Province finds its way to the Pertabpur and Bhabnauli concerns in Gorakhpur, United Provinces. The sugar produced is reported in the statistics of the United Provinces. These factories have furnished the following figures of the cane grown in Saran and Champaran during 1916-17 :—

	Mds.
Pertabpur	215,500
Bhabnauli	164,085

Coal.

277. During the year 344 coal mines were worked in the Province against 354 in the previous year and the total output of coal was 10,762,222 tons against 10,711,356 in the preceding year. This represents about two-thirds of the total output of India.

The greater part came from the Manbhum district where 316 mines yielded 9,458,734 tons. The daily average number of persons employed in the mines fell from 95,120 to 91,900.

Iron-ore.

278. Two mines were worked for iron-ore during the year, one in Puri and the other in Singhbhum. The former yielded only 55 tons of the ore while the latter yielded 142,185 tons. The total output exceeded that of last year by 18,423 tons. The mines gave employment to a daily average of 1,091 persons against 911 in the preceding year.

Mica.

279. The number of mica mines worked during the year was 387 against 288 in the preceding year and the total output was 19,433 cwts. against 19,299 cwts. in 1915. The daily average number of persons employed rose from 7,595 to 11,930.

Copper-ore.

280. During the year two copper mines were worked, both in Singhbhum. They produced only 2,173 tons of ore against 8,010 of the preceding year. The mines gave employment to a daily average of 962 persons against 1,424 in 1915.

Miscellaneous Manufactures and Industries in each Division.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1916-17.]

Patna Division.

281. No new economic development of any importance has been reported from any of the districts in the Patna Division, and the local industries generally continued in much the same condition as in previous years. The mica and lac industries in Gaya and the weaving industry in Bihar are reported to have improved, while the carpet industry suffered from the high price of cotton and the scarcity of dyes. Mr. Mukharji's factory at Arrah was unable to work up to its full capacity owing to the difficulty of obtaining a supply of coal. The prospecting operations of Mr. Tiery for radio-active minerals and other rare earths in Gaya were hampered by lack of financial support. The Glass Expert to the Government of the United Provinces visited the shops of the glass-blowers in Patna City and made certain suggestions for improving the furnaces. A new oil and flour mill was started at Nasriganj in Shahabad. The four companies working limestone quarries in that district shewed a slight advance in general outturn.

Tirhut Division.

282. Indigo, sugar, tobacco, salt and saltpetre are the only industries which are carried on on a large scale in Tirhut. Owing to the stoppage of the supply of synthetic dyes indigo continued to flourish, particularly in Champaran and Muzaffarpur, where the areas under cultivation rose from 15,100 and 16,000 acres, respectively, to 21,900 and 19,700 acres. Stocks, however, are now being held up and it is being found difficult to get a ready market for last year's manufacture at the prices demanded. The sugar industry also continued to progress, especially in Champaran where the area under cultivation increased from 14,800 to 21,300 acres. The rice mills also in this district are reported to have done well during the year; a new mill is being started at Shikarpur by Mr. C. Still, C.I.E. The large tobacco industry in Darbhanga is still increasing, but difficulties of transport and in obtaining the requisites of manufacture on account of the war hampered the factories to some extent. In Saran the sugar and saltpetre trades continued to do well but the hide trade relapsed. The bell-metal industry at Siwan prospered. Among minor industries the manufacture of mother-of-pearl buttons at Mehsi continued. The Salvation Army's silk industry at Barwat in Champaran suffered a great deal owing to the failure of cocoons; the Army has also started net-bag making at Chautarwa on a small scale. The Agricultural Museum at Muzaffarpur was completed and occupied.

Bhagalpur Division.

283. The cigarette factory of the Peninsular Tobacco Company at Monghyr continued to work satisfactorily, and country cigarettes, called *biris*, were manufactured at Jhajha on a fairly large scale. The mica mines at Mahesri in the same district were taken under charge by Government under the Defence of India Act. The business of the two oil mills in the district is reported to have been adversely affected by the dislocation in the goods traffic. There was no great change in the other industries of the district, viz., brick-making, slate-quarrying, manufacture of sugar and of *gur* and weaving by country looms. The old Bafta and Tasar industry of Nathnagar in Bhagalpur continued to retain its reputation in the market. Indigo cultivation in the district showed symptoms of revival owing to the stoppage of the supply of synthetic dyes. The four oil mills established in the Bhagalpur town are reported to have worked well. The technical and industrial school opened last year at Benagoria in the Santal Parganas continued to teach Santal boys to make things of use locally. The weaving industry at Borio and Barhait in the Rajmahal Damin continued to work satisfactorily.

Orissa Division.

284. There were no industrial developments in Orissa. The bell-metal industry in Cuttack and Balasore was carried on as usual; the art of weaving fine cotton cloth is not extinct in those districts, but, in spite of better training imparted at the Cotton Weaving School, progress was hampered through the high price of cotton thread. The red oxide mine at Bhubaneswar in Puri did very little business owing to a smaller demand from the Railway Department. In Angul the Pans are now being admitted for training to the weaving class

opened by the Salvation Army, which also made a successful start in the rearing of silk-worms. The business of the Hingir Rampur Coal Company in Sambalpur continued to progress, and another applicant for a lease is in the field. The coal, however, is reported to be of inferior quality. Mr. Casey's Sisal hemp plantation in that district made steady progress and promises to be a decided success. The prospects of the mica industry in the Borasambar zamindari also appear to be good.

Chota Nagpur Division.

285. The war gave a great impetus to the coal, iron and mica industries in Chota Nagpur and the lac trade was also brisk, but the development of industries, such as the Cape Copper Works, is being retarded by the impossibility of obtaining the necessary plant and skilled labour. In Hazaribagh, however, the local population kept aloof from the coal and mica mines, owing to good harvests. The coal mines generally were unable to work at full pressure for shortage of labour. The net profit of the Tata Iron Works at Sakchi showed a remarkable rise from Rs. 24 lakhs to Rs. 68 lakhs for the year ending the 30th June 1916. The works were employed in the manufacture of munitions shells for Government and supplied steel for the manufacture of shells and rails for Mesopotamia, the North-West Frontier and Egypt, as well as for the Indian Railways. The Bengal Iron and Steel Company increased its labour force and is applying for additional areas for extension of mining. The gold mine of the Dhalbhum Gold and Minerals Prospecting Company at Kudarkocha is reported to have reached the productive stage in July 1916 and turned out 979 oz. of bullion of a value of Rs. 59,658. The development of the Projarna section of the mine during the year proved very encouraging, as the reef appears to be continuing in depth and the ore shoot appears to be widening and lengthening. Mr. Pigott has started a small wolfram mine near Kalimati Station. Messrs. Rae and Company and Mr. Naidu succeeded in extracting some chromite ore of good quality during the year. Several applications for prospecting licenses and mining leases for white clay, red and yellow ochre, chromite, manganese, etc., were granted, but it is too early to say yet whether these ventures will be successful.

Working of the Indian Factories Act.

[Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam, for the year 1916.—Statistics of British India, Part I.—Industrial.]

Number of factories and system of work.

286. The total number of factories working in the Province during the year 1916 was fifty-six against forty-nine in the preceding year. The average daily number of persons employed was 34,036 of whom 30,245 were adult males, against 31,199 and 27,806 of the preceding year. In sixteen factories work was carried on under the system of a midday stoppage, and in twenty-eight under other arrangements. The remaining twelve factories were exempted under Part C of Schedule 1 of the Act. The Sunday holiday was observed in twenty-six factories; Sunday or a substituted day in ten factories; fifteen factories were worked under other arrangements, and the remaining five factories were exempted under various sections of the Act.

Inspections.

287. Inspections by the wholetime Inspectors were made in twenty-eight factories once, in six twice, in three thrice and nineteen factories were not inspected at all. The District Officers of Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Monghyr, Cuttack, Champaran, Manbhum and Singhbhum made a certain number of inspections of factories in their respective districts.

General health of operatives.

288. The general health of the operatives was good, and no serious sickness in epidemic form was reported.

Wages and general condition of operatives.

289. The general condition of operatives employed in factories in this Province was satisfactory, and there was no noticeable change in the rates of wages paid to them.

Employment of women and children.

290. The daily average number of women employed was 2,835, and that of children 956, against 2,681 and 712 in the preceding year.

Fencing of machinery.

291. Inspectors devoted considerable time to the problem of the efficient fencing of machinery and, where necessary, orders were passed for new or

additional fencing. Occupiers and managers of factories generally were willing to carry out instructions or suggestions for safety appliances and in some cases have gone to considerable expense in experimenting with, and improving upon, safety devices suggested by Inspectors. Only in two cases had warnings to be given to Managers of factories for failing to carry out the recommendations of the Inspectors under section 18 of the Act. The defects have now been remedied.

292. The number of accidents reported during the year was 637 against 519 of the preceding year. Of these 15 were fatal, 133 serious, and 489 minor. **Accidents.**

293. No prosecutions were instituted, nor were any fires or strikes reported during the year under review. **Prosecutions, strikes and fires.**

TRADE.

[Statistics of British India, Part III.—Commercial.]

I.—FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

294. As in the preceding year, no foreign trade was carried on during the year in consequence of the war. **Foreign Trade.**

II.—COASTING TRADE.

295. The coasting trade also suffered heavily and none was carried on at the ports of Puri and Cuttack. The value of the trade for the port of Balasore is shown below:— **Coasting Trade.**

Imports.

		1915-16. Rs.	1916-17. Rs.
Merchandise	Indian	12,24,115	8,07,640
	Foreign	4,60,155	6,28,590
Treasure ...	... ...	...	...
	Total ...	16,84,270	14,36,230

Exports.

Merchandise	Indian	15,67,177	10,67,782
	Foreign	2,611	...
Treasure ...	... ...	...	1,22,075
	Total ...	15,69,788	11,89,857
	GRAND TOTAL ...	32,54,058	26,26,087

III.—FRONTIER TRADE.

296. The slight improvement recorded in the Trans-Frontier Trade of Bihar and Orissa during the year 1915-16 was maintained during the year under review. The total value amounted to Rs. 402·9 lakhs against Rs. 401·03 in 1915-16, being an increase of nearly 0·5 per cent. Of this total trade, imports accounted for Rs. 250·6 lakhs and exports for Rs. 152·3 lakhs. The principal articles which contributed to this result were grain and pulse and jute (raw) on the import side, and on the export side metals and manufactures of metals, spices, oils, salt, sugar and animals (living). The total value of the trade **Frontier Trade.**

does not include treasure, the registration of which continues to be defective since it is generally carried as personal luggage.

Imports.

297. The aggregate value of the imports declined from Rs. 255·2 lakhs to 250·6 lakhs. The chief articles of imports from Nepal are food-grains (principally rice), animals (living), oilseeds, jute (raw), tobacco, ghee, and hides and skins. The rice imported was valued at an amount representing 50·2 per cent of the total value of all imports and its quantity was maunds 42·43 lakhs against maunds 41·64 lakhs in the previous year. Owing to the restricted export of jute (raw) during the year under report from India to countries beyond the seas, the import of the article from Nepal fell to 235,075 maunds valued at Rs. 17,99,446 against 420,159 maunds valued at Rs. 27,81,377 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 44·1 per cent in quantity and 35·3 per cent in value. Of the oilseeds received from Nepal, mustard, rape and linseed continued to be the most important and in the year under review showed an increase in quantity of 65·4 per cent and 127·1 per cent and in value of 67·6 per cent and 144·0 per cent respectively. The import of tobacco after two years' gradual decline improved by 31·2 per cent in quantity but the value dropped a little, i.e., by 0·3 per cent. The import of ghee showed a slight improvement of about 2·0 per cent. in quantity and 23·6 per cent in value. The trade in live animals and hides and skins showed an improvement of 49·0 and 35·4 per cent respectively in value.

Exports.

298. The figures for 1916-17 showed an improvement of about Rs. 6·48 lakhs or 4·4 per cent over those of the preceding year. Articles manufactured, as distinct from raw products, constitute the bulk of exports from Bihar and Orissa. Of these, cotton yarn and piece-goods, mostly of foreign origin, head the list. During the year under report the export of cotton yarn and piece-goods dropped from Rs. 63·33 lakhs to 56·48 lakhs. This decline may be attributed to the adverse effect of the European war on India's trade in these articles. The group next in importance is metals and manufactures of metals. The export trade of these articles declined in volume by 23·0 per cent but owing to high prices the value showed an increase of 1·93 lakhs or 17·6 per cent. Spices improved in value by 28·3 per cent, salt by 17·9 per cent, oils by 15·1 per cent, animals (living) by 14·7 per cent, sugar by 5·1 per cent and tobacco by 1·0 per cent while grain and pulse showed a considerable decline of about 56·1 per cent and provisions of 15·2 per cent.

IV.—TRADE BY RAIL AND RIVER.

Division and value of trade.

299. The main division of this trade (exclusive of animals and treasure) and its estimated value are exhibited in the following table :—

Year.	Imports into Bihar and Orissa from other Provinces including Calcutta.	Exports from Bihar and Orissa to other Provinces including Calcutta.	Imports into Bihar and Orissa from Calcutta.	Exports from Bihar and Orissa to Calcutta.
1	2	3	4	5
1915-16 ...	Mds. 31,469,618 Rs. 24,16,72,109	Mds. 251,672,350 Rs. 30,85,65,585	Mds. 12,726,046 Rs. 14,68,85,262	Mds. 71,794,685 Rs. 10,97,41,743
1916-17 ...	Mds. 29,114,874 Rs. 25,17,54,432	Mds. 283,906,969 Rs. 42,63,26,570	Mds. 8,144,402 Rs. 13,88,69,518	Mds. 81,388,337 Rs. 14,00,41,178

Of the total value of Rs. 25·18 crores of the imports into Bihar and Orissa some 55·2 per cent was contributed by the Calcutta trade block, 17·0 per cent by Bengal excluding Calcutta, 11·7 per cent by the United Provinces

of Agra and Oudh, 5·9 per cent by the Central Provinces and Berar and the remaining 10·2 per cent by other provinces.

Of the total exports of Rs. 42·63 crores, some 32·8 per cent went to Calcutta, 3·17 per cent to Bengal excluding Calcutta, 11·9 per cent to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, 8·3 per cent to Bombay including the port, 3·9 per cent to the Punjab, 3·3 per cent to the Central Provinces and Berar and the remaining 8·1 per cent to other provinces.

Imports.

300. The principal articles of import from Bengal, including Calcutta were cotton manufactures (Rs. 693·1 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 80·6 lakhs), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 245·5 lakhs), railway plant and rolling stock (Rs. 119·2 lakhs), oils (Rs. 114·0 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 88·1 lakhs) and salt (Rs. 86·5 lakhs); from the United Provinces cotton manufactures (Rs. 43·4 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 97·5 lakhs), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 16·2 lakhs); from the Central Provinces and Berar cotton manufactures (Rs. 38·6 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 42·6 lakhs) and from Bombay including the port, cotton manufactures (Rs. 71·2 lakhs).

Exports.

301. The principal exports from Bihar and Orissa to Bengal including Calcutta were coal and coke (Rs. 424·4 lakhs), railway plant and rolling-stock (Rs. 765·3 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 128·1 lakhs), oilseed (Rs. 197·2 lakhs), jute (Rs. 195·8 lakhs), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 238·0 lakhs), tobacco (Rs. 66·7 lakhs), hides and skins (Rs. 135·9 lakhs) and dyes and tans (Rs. 103·6 lakhs); to the United Provinces coal and coke (Rs. 120·2 lakhs), grain and pulse (Rs. 49·9 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 78·2 lakhs) and tobacco (Rs. 43·4 lakhs); to Bombay, including the port, coal and coke (Rs. 147·7 lakhs); and to the Punjab coal and coke (Rs. 108·8 lakhs).

Internal Trade.

302. For the purpose of estimating internal trade by rail, the Province is divided into four blocks known as the Patna City, the Bihar, the Orissa and the Chota Nagpur blocks. The trade between those blocks during the year under report is estimated at 29,076,000 maunds of goods. It consisted chiefly of coal and coke, food-grains, metallic ores, sugar, wood and timber, marble and stones and railway materials.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Establishment.

Administrative changes.

303. The appointments of Chief Engineers and Secretaries to Government in the Buildings and Roads and Irrigation Branches were held by Messrs. Stanley and Clayton, respectively, throughout the year. Mr. N. G. Dunbar, Under-Secretary, Buildings and Roads Branch, continued in charge of the office till the end of the year except for a period of one month during which he was on privilege leave. The appointment of Under-Secretary in the Irrigation Branch remained vacant during the year and proposals were submitted to the Government of India for the abolition of the post.

Mr. C. B. Mellor, Superintending Engineer, held charge of the Gandak Circle till the 10th April 1916 when he was relieved by Mr. G. T. Huntingford, Superintending Engineer, temporary rank, who remained in charge of the Circle for the remainder of the year. Mr. Mellor succeeded Mr. R. C. Edge as Superintending Engineer of the Sone Circle on the latter officer proceeding on combined leave in April 1916, and remained in charge of the Circle till the end of the year. The Orissa Circle remained in charge of Mr. W. S. Bremner, Superintending Engineer, throughout the year except for a short period of sixteen days during which he was on privilege leave. Mr. H. Wardle, Executive Engineer, held charge of the Western Circle till about the end of December 1916 when Mr. Edge returned from leave, and took charge of the Circle till the close of the year. The Eastern Circle remained in charge of Mr. E. Blaber, Superintending Engineer, throughout the year.

The following officers joined the Indian Army Reserve of Officers during the year :—

Mr. A. M. Millwood	}	Assistant Architects.
„ H. S. Pollen		
„ G. Stevenson		Assistant Engineer.

Besides the above, Messrs. Collier, Hall, Hewitt and Duncan, Assistant Engineers, and five subordinates, were employed on Civil or Military duty connected with the war.

Since the separation of 1912 the Balasore Division in the Orissa Circle has been a very light charge for an Executive Engineer. It was therefore converted into an independent Subdivision with effect from the 1st April 1916 and added to the Cuttack Division. Certain changes in the distribution of work at the same time made the old Divisional nomenclature inappropriate, so that the names of Cuttack, Mahanadi and Brahmini Divisions have now been adopted.

In order to facilitate the construction of waterworks and sanitary works in the New Capital and Bankipore, it was found necessary to open a temporary Division. This Division, designated the Sanitary Works Division, with Mr. J. G. Alexander, Assistant Sanitary Engineer in charge, was constituted with effect from the 1st May 1916, with its headquarters at Patna.

Two temporary Subdivisions in the Sambalpur Division were abolished and the works in the Sambalpur District were redistributed between two permanent Subdivisions with their headquarters at Sambalpur and Bargarh, respectively.

Owing to the transfer of the Chhajjubagh buildings and the Bankipore-Dinapore Road to the charge of the Patna Division, the work of the Division became too heavy for two Subdivisions, and a third Subdivision, namely the Bankipore No. 2 Subdivision, was formed with effect from the 4th February 1917.

Public Works Department Reorganization Committee.

304. The Government of India appointed a Committee to inquire into, and report generally upon, the organization and the system of administration of the Buildings and Roads Branch of the Public Works Department. The Committee held its meetings at Bankipore between the 22nd and 29th March 1917. Mr. Bremner was selected to be the local member to the Committee for this Province. The Committee examined several witnesses, including certain officers of this Department, some representatives of other Departments of the Local Government, and of the District Boards, Municipalities and private contracting firms.

The rules for the appointment and promotion of Ziladars were revised and it was laid down that the posts in the Revenue Divisions, Sone and Orissa Canals, at present held by Sub-Deputy Collectors, would, when the present occupants vacate them, be filled up by the Superintending Engineers. These men will be gazetted under the designation of Canal Revenue Assistants. The rules for the training and Departmental Examination of officers serving in this Province were also revised and published during the year.

Embezzlement.

305. Babu Pulin Bihari Sinha, a Subdivisional Cashier in the Buxar Division, embezzled a sum of Rs. 4,376-6 during the years 1913 to 1916. The defalcation was detected in 1916 and the cashier was sent up for trial before the Sessions Judge of Shahabad, who convicted him and sentenced him to rigourous imprisonment for five years, with a fine of Rs. 500, or six months' extra imprisonment in default. Of the amount embezzled, Rs. 797-11-8 was recovered from the security deposit of the cashier and Rs. 2,100 is being recovered from the Subdivisional Officers during whose incumbency the embezzlement took place, the balance being written off.

Revenue Staff.

306. In March 1914, the Tahsildars in the Sone Circle memorialized the Chief Engineer representing their grievances concerning the inadequacy of

their pay. On a consideration of the case, the scale of pay sanctioned for these officers was found to be really inadequate and a revised scale of pay ranging from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50, was sanctioned with effect from the 1st July 1916.

Buildings.

IMPERIAL WORKS.

Military Works.

307. The construction of a new office building for the proof officer at Balasore was in progress. The work of providing a pitched roof of corrugated iron over the terraced roof of the new warrant officer's quarters at Balasore, and the extension of the roof of the Gun Shelter to the splinter proof shed at Chandipur, were nearing completion.

Civil Works. Post and Telegraph Offices.

308. Certain additions anda lterations were carried out to the combined Post and Telegraph Office buildings at Jharia and Worsleyganj and to the Operator's and Instructor's quarters of the Telephone Exchange buildings at Loyabad. The construction of quarters for the Head Signaller and additions and alterations to the Post Office buildings at Balasore, which were started last year, were completed. The combined Post and Telegraph Office buildings with the Postal staff quarters at Motihari and Pakaur were completed and made over to the Postal Department. Materials were collected for the Postal staff quarters in the New Capital, Patna. The combined Post and Telegraph Office buildings with Postmaster's and Head Signaller's quarters at Gaya were almost completed. The construction of quarters for clerks and menials attached to the Post Office at Raxaul and certain improvements to the residence of the Superintendent of Post Offices at Motihari were held in abeyance for want of funds. Minor improvements were carried out to the Sub-Postmaster's quarters at Nasriganj and Siwan, and to the combined Post and Telegraph Office in the latter station. Certain petty works were done in the Post Office buildings at Chaibassa, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Bargarh. Other works of minor importance which were completed are :—

(1) Provision of pankhas in the Ranchi-Secretariat Post Office at Doranda.

(2) Readjusting the ceiling of the Post Office building at Bagodar.

(3) Fixing iron sheets to the almirahs in the Post Office at Laheria Sarai.

Ecclesiastical.

309. A verandah was added to the west side of the Church at Chapra.

Miscellaneous.

310. Certain works in connection with the Residency buildings at Khatmandu could not be taken up for want of funds. The following works were completed in connection with the Agricultural College and Research Institute at Pusa :—

(1) some additional quarters for clerks,

(2) additions to the female ward and female servants' quarters,

(3) a double-seated latrine for the Hospital, and

(4) improvements to certain European quarters.

The work of extensions and improvements to the electric installation was taken up during the year but could not be completed as the battery and other equipment did not arrive in time.

The opium godown at Barabat (Bettiah) was made over to the Salvation Army and struck off the books of the Department.

A meteorological observatory shed, rain gauge and platform for the sunshine records, and a masonry gauge to measure the discharge of a spring were constructed at Netarhat. A ladder and a raised platform were provided for the anemograph at the Purulia Jail.

Certain petty works were done in the Accountant-General's Office at Doranda, and some minor improvements were carried out in the residence and

office of the Chief Inspector of Mines, at Dhanbad. Temporary quarters for the Settlement staff were completed.

PROVINCIAL WORKS.

Court Buildings.

311. The Sessions Court buildings at Dumka were completed and made over to the Civil Department. A start was made with the construction of an additional stall with 20 shops in the Civil Court compound at Bankipore and also with certain additions and alterations in the Patna Collectorate buildings. Iron railings were provided all round the verandah in the new court buildings of the Deputy Commissioner, Angul, and the doors and windows of the Cuttack Collectorate were provided with strong wire-netting. The rebuilding of the southern portion of the record-room of the Puri Collectorate, which was burnt down in April 1916, was commenced and materials were collected for certain extensions to the record-room of the Balasore Collectorate. Additions and alterations were carried out to the Collectorate at Muzaffarpur and Saran and certain improvements were made to the new Collectorate at Gaya and the Commissioner's office, Muzaffarpur. A witness-shed was constructed in the new civil court at Arrah and wire-fencing was provided round the plot of land which was added to this compound. Certain additions and alterations were made to the Treasury room at Chaibassa and a latrine and a urinal were provided for the Deputy Commissioner's court there. Materials were collected for additions and alterations to the record-room of the District Court at Sambalpur.

The construction of the Subdivisional court buildings at Bargarh and of the additional court building at Giridih was completed. An additional Kachahri building with the Treasure guard's house and a tent godown were constructed at Chatra, and a verandah was added to the Subdivisional court at Dhanbad. The construction of three sets of quarters was taken up at Simdega with a view to providing permanent accommodation for the Ministerial staff of the Subdivisional court, and two sets were completed. Wire-netting was fixed to the grated doors of the Treasury room and malkhana at Simdega and arrangements were made for the acquisition of land for the extension of the compound of the Subdivisional court there. The addition of a malkhana and a court room to the Subdivisional court building at Kendrapara, and the extension of the Subdivisional court building at Kishanganj were in progress. The construction of an additional building for the Subdivisional court at Phulbani was approaching completion. The extension to the Subdivisional court building at Jahanabad and certain additions and alterations to that at Nawadah were completed. Record racks were provided in the Subdivisional Magistrate's court at Buxar, and a verandah was added to the south of the Subdivisional Magistrate's court at Bhabua. The extension of the Subdivisional court building and the construction of treasury guards' quarters and cookshed at Madhubani were completed.

The construction of a double Munsifi at Puri was completed, and witness-sheds were constructed for the Munsifis at Bargarh and Sassaram. Additions and alterations to the Munsif's court building at Siwan were completed and the additions to the Munsif's court at Sitamarhi were begun. Additional accommodation was provided in the Munsif's court at Sassaram.

Circuit-houses.

312. The new Circuit-house at Laheria Sarai was completed. A portion of the Circuit-house at Sikandrapur (Muzaffarpur) collapsed owing to a heavy scour in the bank of the river Bur Gandak, the damage done roughly amounting to Rs. 500. Certain improvements were carried out to the Circuit-house at Dhanbad. The distempering in the new Circuit-house at Sambalpur was completed and the cookhouse attached to it was extended. Considerable progress was made with the construction of a Circuit-house at Netarhat, and the Bara Nepali Kothi at Bankipore was converted into a Circuit-house.

Excise buildings.

313. The combined *ganja gola* and liquor godown at Sambalpur was extended and certain petty improvements were carried out to the *ganja gola* at Dhanbad and the *ganja gola* and liquor Depôt at Balarampur. The construction of office rooms attached to the liquor Warehouses at Nawadah, Aurangabad,

and Jahanabad were either completed or in progress. Other works of minor importance which were completed during the year are :—

(1) a passage between the two excise office rooms at Purulia;

(2) boundary pillars round the compound of the liquor warehouse at Rajauli, and

(3) a new verandah in front of the liquor godown at Bihta and the provision of an iron ladder in this building and also in the liquor godown at Paliganj.

314. Certain improvements were carried out in the Central Jail at Hazaribagh and materials were collected for additional work with a view to providing special accommodation for the prisoners. Considerable improvements were also made in the water-supply in the Reformatory School and Central Jail at Hazaribagh. An enclosure wall was constructed for an additional yard for the storage of tent poles in the Central Jail at Buxar and additions and alterations were carried out in the warders' family quarters. **Jails.**

The following works were either completed or were in progress in the Central Jail at Gaya :—

(1) constructing a main entrance gate, office, armoury and Jailor's quarters,

(2) providing temporary electric installation,

(3) constructing warders' quarters,

(4) providing fire appliances for the Press and Forms Stores Department,

(5) providing glazed sliding shutters to the clerestory windows in the main press building and Forms Stores and Despatch room,

(6) latrines and urinals for the paid staff and prisoners employed in the Press and Forms Department,

(7) certain improvements to the Deputy Superintendent's and Compounder's quarters, and

(8) collection of materials for the construction of a new Hospital and Tuberculosis ward.

Besides the above, quarters for the Press employés were started by the Jail Department.

In the Purulia Jail certain additional works were carried out and the Jailor's quarters were completed. The Head Warder's quarters in the Chaibassa Jail were in course of construction. Additions and alterations were carried out to the jail buildings at Motihari and Muzaffarpur. Materials were collected for the construction of quarters for the second Assistant Jailor and the Sub-Assistant Surgeon of the Cuttack Jail. Certain additions and alterations to the District Jail at Purnea were in progress.

The new Sub-Jail at Supaul was completed and the construction of family quarters for the head warder of the Sub-Jail at Phulbani was in progress. Wire-netted doors were provided in the office and godown of the Sub-Jail at Bhabhua and certain improvements were carried out in the Sub-Jail at Madhubani and in the female ward in the Sub-Jail at Buxar. Certain petty improvements were also carried out in the Sub-Jails at Dhanbad, Chatra and Giridih.

315. The construction of cubicles for 58 married constables and head constables at Angul was completed and the opium buildings at Lakhi Sarai were converted into a police-station. The construction of the Thana buildings and quarters for the Court Sub-Inspector and the head constable at Simdega was completed. Land was acquired for the Constables' Training School at Chauliaganj (Cuttack) and a barrack for the Temple and Town Police at Puri and the town outpost buildings at Champanagar (Bhagalpur) were completed. The work on the barracks and kitchen for the Military Police at Bhagalpur and on the hajat **Police.**

and malkhana at Nawadah made good progress. A start was made with the Kotwali Police buildings, European Sergeant's quarters, and the Sub-Inspector's and head constable's quarters at Bankipore. The old Circuit-house at Laheria Sarai was converted into a Police Office. A light terraced ceiling was provided to the Hospital attached to the Police Training College at Hazaribagh.

Quarters were constructed for the additional Sub-Inspector of Police and Writer Head Constable at Sakchi, the Reserve Police Sub-Inspector at Angul, the Sub-Inspector at Worsleyganj and the Police Sub-Inspector at Sassaram. A cookshed was constructed for the Constables of the Worsleyganj Police-station and a verandah was added to the quarters of the European Inspector of Armed Police at Gaya. Certain additions and alterations were carried out to the senior Sub-Inspector's quarters at Nawadah and the Sub-Inspectors' quarters at Angul were remodelled. The Inspector's quarters at Simdega and Latihar and the quarters for the Sub-Assistant Surgeons attached to the Armed Police at Hazaribagh were improved.

Education.

316. The Dharma Samaj Sanskrit College at Muzaffarpur was completed, and the workshop in connection with the new Chemical Laboratory for the Patna College was nearing completion.

The new Zila School building at Puri, certain additions and alterations to the Zila school buildings at Chaibassa, a combined office and residence for the Assistant Inspectress of Schools, Patna Division, and a kitchen for the Muhammadan hostel attached to the Purulia Zila School, were all completed, and the construction of a new block for the Zila School at Balasore and the remodelling of the Zila School at Motihari were in progress. The drill shed in the compound of the old school building at Muzaffarpur was removed and rebuilt in the new school premises. The hall of the Chapra Zila School was converted into a Library and minor improvements were carried out to the Reformatory School at Hazaribagh. Arrangements were made for the acquisition of land for the construction of the Hindu Girls' School building at Hazaribagh.

The Guru Training School at Satbarwa with the Head Pandit's quarters, a new hostel for the Hindu students of the Cuttack Training School, the Guru Training buildings at Palda, a cookshed for the hostel of the Guru Training School at Dasarathpur, a hostel for the Guru Training School at Dalesahi and the Training School for Muhammadan Teachers at Killaghat were all completed. The construction of the Guru Training School at Dobsahi was nearing completion. A latrine was provided in the Guru Training School at Buxar.

Medical.

317. Teakwood ceilings were provided to the verandahs of certain buildings in the Asylum for European insanes at Kankey to secure the tiles from storms, and Lightning Conductors were provided for the principal buildings. The verandah of the European Hospital at Ranchi was provided with Pabco-roofing and the Engine-driven pumps of the Hospital were converted into hand-driven pumps. The Hospital was also provided with a "Challenge" pattern cooking range. Certain improvements were carried out to the Vaccine Depôt at Nankum by providing a balancing reservoir with necessary pipe connections for the refrigerating machine, and providing an eternit sheet roof over the cooling tank and making pipe connection inside the four loaders' quarters.

A new Operation Theatre was constructed in the General Hospital at Cuttack. The addition of a second storey over the Lecture Hall of the Medical School at Cuttack was completed and a hostel was constructed for the female students of the school. Extensions to the General Hospital at Bankipore and the construction of one set of servants' quarters and store rooms were completed. The female hostel was converted into Nurse's quarters and materials were collected for constructing an Isolation Ward and additional servants' quarters. The construction of a Tuberculosis ward in the Hospital compound at Bhagalpur was in progress. An additional sleeping ward was constructed in the Lunatic Asylum at Bankipore.

Patent stone flooring was provided for a portion of the Sadr Dispensary building at Angul and certain additional works were done in the Dispensary at Phulbani. The work of replacing the thatched roof by a tiled roof and the construction of a room for the examination of patients in the latter Dispensary were in progress.

Third class mortuaries were constructed at Chatra and Hajipur and the old mortuary in the latter station, together with its site, was transferred to the local Municipality. A guard room was constructed in the mortuary at Chaibassa and a sloping desk was provided in the mortuary at Jahanabad. Certain additions and alterations to the Assistant Surgeon's quarters at Angul and the construction of quarters for the Sub-Assistant Surgeon and compounder attached to the Banki Dispensary were in progress. Certain additions and alterations were also done to the Sub-Assistant Surgeon's quarters at Angul.

318. The extension of the record-racks in the Sadr Registration Office at Balasore was taken in hand. New Sub-Registry Office buildings were constructed at Debidol and Masharwa, and considerable progress was made with the construction of Sub-Registry Offices at Soro, Dhamnagar, Kendrapara and Tirtol. Estimates were sanctioned for the construction of Sub-Registry Offices at Giridih and Dalsinghsarai, but the works could not be taken up for want of funds. **Registration.**

319. The tomb and finial over the tomb of Major Knox in the Patna Civil Court compound were thoroughly renewed and the special repairs to Bakhtiyar Khan's tomb at Chainpur were nearing completion. A lightning conductor was provided for the Rohitesvar temple at Rohtas Garh. **Monuments and antiquities.**

320. The following minor works were completed in connection with the cemetery at Dhanbad :— **Burial-grounds.**

(1) providing a pump for the well and furniture for the lych gate,

(2) lining to the well for fixing pumps, and

(3) providing wrought iron gates.

Hand biers were provided for the cemeteries at Motihari and Chapra.

321. A well of 12 feet diameter was sunk near the existing well in the Race-course for supplementing the water-supply to the Government House at Ranchi, and the electric installation in the house was improved. A cook-house was built for the annex to the Government House at Puri and a reinforced brick roof was substituted for the thatched roof of the servants' quarters. Improvements in the electrical plant and the construction of bath-rooms for the Staff Quarters in the Government House at Puri were in progress. **Residence for the Lieutenant-Governor and Government Officials.**

The following residential buildings were completed :—

Subdivisional Officer's residence at Begusarai, Superintendent of Police's residence at Gaya, Assistant Superintendent of Police's residence at Gumla, Sub-Deputy Collector's residence at Kendrapara and Principal's and Vice-Principal's residences, Patna Training College.

The following residences were in progress :—

The Executive Engineer's residence, Patna Division, one Sub-Judge's and two Munsifs' residences at Bankipore, Sub-Deputy Collector's residence at Barh, Subdivisional Officer's residence at Buxar and one Deputy Collector's residence at Bankipore.

Three houses were acquired in the Fort at Monghyr for the residences of the Assistant Superintendent of Police and a Deputy and a Sub-Deputy Collector. Certain improvements were made in the residence of the Hon'ble Member of the Board of Revenue at Bankipore. A tiled roof was substituted for the thatched roof of the cookshed and out-houses attached to the Subdivisional Officer's residence at Khurda. A kitchen and a privy in the Subdivisional Officer's residence at Barh were completed. The conversion of the old Subdivisional Officer's court buildings at Jahanabad into the Subdivisional Officer's residence was taken up. Wire-fencing was provided round the

compound of the Subdivisional Officer's residence at Sassaram. The construction of a tiled roof over the terraced roof of the Civil Surgeon's residence at Laheria Sarai was in progress. Additions and improvements were made to the Collector's residence at Muzaffarpur, the Subdivisional Magistrates' residences at Samastipur, Hajipur and Sitamarhi, the Sub-Deputy Collector's residence at Samastipur and the Munsif's residence at Madhubani.

Various works of minor importance were completed or were in progress in the following residences :—

Deputy Commissioners' residences at Purulia and Daltonganj, Agency Forest Officer's and Civil Surgeon's residences at Sambalpur, Deputy Magistrate's residence at Chaibassa, new Subdivisional Officer's and second officer's residences at Dhanbad, Subdivisional Magistrate's residence at Chatra, Subdivisional Officer's residence at Giridih, Indian Deputy Magistrate's residence at Hazaribagh, Senior Deputy Collector's residence at Ranchi, Subdivisional Officer's residence at Khunti and Munsif's residence at Hazaribagh.

Government Buildings, Ranchi.

322. The open verandah at the back of the Chief Secretary's office in the Secretariat buildings at Doranda, was provided with a covered passage and other petty works were carried out in the Secretariat building. Mr. Leslie's bungalow occupied by the Director of Land Records and Surveys, was provided with wire fencing and special repairs were executed to Bungalow No. 8-A at Doranda.

The "A", "B" and "C" type quarters for Indian clerks at Doranda and Hinu were provided with pakka floors and four sets of bachelors' blocks at Hinu were converted into "C" type family quarters for the staff of the Government Architect and for clerks of other Departments of Government.

Capital Works, Patna.

323. The construction of the Secretariat (Main building) and the Government House with Council Chamber and out-houses were practically completed, some petty works only remaining to be done. Work on the gate house to the Secretariat was well advanced. Certain additional works were completed in connection with the High Court and the Bar Chamber and quarters were constructed for the menials of the High Court. The temporary Inspection bungalow and the Assistant Engineer's residence were adapted for residences of the Deputy and Assistant Registrars of the High Court. Certain improvements were made to the three residences of the Hon'ble Judges of the Patna High Court at Chhajjubagh and electric fittings were installed in the two other Judges' residences at Patna, tanks and pumps were provided in the wells at Adalatganj. Some progress was made with the construction of residences for the Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council. A start was made with the construction of the Chief Secretary's residence and materials were collected for other residences. Plumbing and electric fittings were provided in the two single-storied "C" type residences.

The planting of avenues of trees along the road and the surface drainage project were completed. The drains alongside the Khagaul road were improved and masonry tanks were provided for the roadside wells. A new *Thakurbari* was constructed at Mithapur in exchange for the one acquired by Government. Several improvements were made in the Press buildings at Gulzarbagh and in the power house in connection with the electric installation in these buildings.

Public Works Department buildings.

324. A new office for the Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle, was in progress. Rest-sheds were constructed for the Public Works Department subordinates at Sakchi and Sohela. Materials were collected for the construction of a Public Works Department Subdivisional office godown and outhouse for the Singhbhum Subdivision at Chaibassa. Certain improvements were carried out in the Executive Engineer's record-room at Hazaribagh and the Sectional officer's quarters at Khurda. The record-racks in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Western Circle, were extended, and additions and alterations were carried out in the Executive Engineer's office at Buxar.

Miscellaneous.

325. The "Harryngton" tank which was leased from the Municipality in the preceding year for supplying water to the Government House garden at Ranchi was improved.

The construction of a new kitchen and conversion of two rooms of the stable into servants' quarters in the residence of the Superintendent of Salt Revenue at Cuttack were completed.

326. The following works were completed :— **Contribution.**

(1) the work of laying out the Hardinge Memorial Park, including fencing in the New Capital at Patna,

(2) the extension of the Minto Hindu and Muhammadan Hostel of the Patna College,

(3) providing patent stone flooring to the Surgical ward of the General Hospital at Cuttack,

(4) constructing an Engine and Battery room and fitting electric installation in the General Hospital at Cuttack, and

(5) construction of the Tirhut Agricultural Museum at Muzaffarpur.

The extension of the Duchess of Teck Zanana Hospital at Bankipore, and the construction of an operation room for the out-door patients of the Growse Central Hospital at Balasore were nearly completed. A start was made with the construction of an infectious diseases ward in the main Hospital at Sambalpur and the experimental work in connection with the supply of drinking water to the Hazaribagh Municipality from the Kumar river was well advanced.

A statement of expenditure on Original Works—Civil Buildings—is given below :—

	Rs.
(1) Administration	14,94,927
(2) Monuments and Antiquities	12,198
(3) Educational	4,92,906
(4) Ecclesiastical	5,854
(5) Law and Justice	3,82,618
(6) Jails	1,20,577
(7) Police	1,60,729
(8) Medical	2,79,097
(9) Miscellaneous	1,45,018
(10) Forest	206

Communications.

327. During the year under review, the work on the through trunk road between Bihar and Orissa was continued. The major portion of the road in Chota Nagpur was completed with the exception of some petty bridge works which still remained to be done. The detailed project of the alignment of the route between Patna and Gaya was submitted for sanction towards the close of the year. **Through trunk road between Bihar and Orissa.**

328. The work of strengthening many existing culverts and minor bridges on the Ranchi-Chaibassa road by the substitution of trough plates for timber floors had to be kept in abeyance owing to the prohibitive price of iron work. A portion of the 12th mile of this road was raised in order to improving the grade and drainage. **Ranchi-Chaibassa road.**

329. The metalled surface of the Chaibassa-Jaintgarh road was resectioned in several miles. Some bridges and culverts on this road were reconstructed with reinforced concrete. **Chaibassa-Jaintgarh road.**

330. The bridge over the Baitarani river at the southern end of the through route was declared open by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa on the 6th March 1917. **Baitarani Bridge.**

331. Of the ordinary works of communication, only works in progress and very urgent works were carried out during the year. Numerous important **Ordinary works.**

schemes had to be deferred owing to the financial stringency caused by the war while some bridges could not be undertaken on account of the exorbitant price of steel.

Bihar.

332. In Bihar, the Bankipore-Dinapore road, the maintenance of which was in charge of the District Board of Patna, was retransferred to the Public Works Department from the 1st April 1916. An estimate was sanctioned for raising this road and widening its metalled surface. A raised earth bank was constructed along the first four miles of the road from Bankipore to prevent access of flood water into the Capital at Patna.

Earthwork for the extension of the Dak Bungalow road up to the Exhibition road, and a new road running northward from this extension to the junction of the Fraser road at Bankipore, was completed. Materials were collected for the construction of the proposed road linking up the Patna-Gaya road with the compound of Chajjubagh House.

The Lake road at Motihari near the new Post and Telegraph Office, was diverted during the year.

Chota Nagpur.

333. In Chota Nagpur, considerable progress was made with the improvement of the Chandwa-Kuru section of the Ranchi-Daltonganj road. The road was banked and surfaced, and gravel and metal were collected. The reinforced concrete bridges over the Deonud, the Mangaldaha, the Teeko and the Kaithi Dhora rivers on this length of the road, which were in progress, were completed.

The work of redecking the bridge over the Barakar river at Chirkunda in the 149th mile of the Grand Trunk road was in progress at the end of the year.

Orissa.

334. In Orissa, the metalling of the Bargarh-Bolangir road was completed and that of the Raipur-Sambalpur road, 2nd section, was still in progress at the close of the year.

A project for remodelling the old bridges on the Raipur-Sambalpur road, IA, was approved, and the work taken in hand.

The construction of high level bridges over the *nalas* in the 3rd, 4th and 6th miles of the Jharsuguda-Bhosma road was practically completed. The bridge over the Salindi river at Bhadrak on the Orissa Trunk road, which was commenced last year, was completed and opened to traffic.

The work of improvements to the second portion of the Cuttack-Sambalpur road was fully completed, while that to the third portion of the same section of this road was nearly completed.

The improvement to the Angul-Tiekerpara road, from the 8th to the 36th mile, was also in progress.

Some materials were collected for metalling the clayey portions of the Cuttack-Sambalpur road, 2nd section.

Projects for the construction of two high level bridges over the Jhuljore river and the Am. Nala in the 14th and 19th miles of the Sambalpur-Sonpur road were administratively approved.

The construction of the high level bridges over the Tengra Nala and the Ranj river on the Raipur-Sambalpur road, 2nd portion, was sanctioned, but the works could not be taken in hand for want of funds.

The Staging and Inspection Bungalows and Rest Sheds in the Province were maintained and kept in a good state of repair.

The construction of a 1st class Inspection Bungalow at Katra on the 2nd section of the Cuttack-Sambalpur road was taken in hand and nearly completed, as also was the construction of the Inspection Bungalows at Bagmandi and Telibandh.

Inspection and Dak Bungalows.

335. Administrative approval of the Local Government was accorded to the construction of an Inspection Bungalow at Sakchi in the district of Singhbhum; to the conversion of the old Inspection Bungalow at Dhanbad into a Dak Bungalow; and to the construction of a new Inspection Bungalow at Dhanbad.

The construction of the two new Inspection Bungalows at Sakchi and Dhanbad was started during the year.

The Dak Bungalow at Madhupur was converted into an Inspection Bungalow.

The planting and maintaining of trees alongside provincial roads were carried out and nurseries were maintained as far as funds permitted.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

336. A number of works affording protection to Civil Stations and Government buildings from erosion by rivers were carried out during the year under report. **Protective Works.**

At Bankipore, the construction of a brick revetment wall along the right bank of the river Ganges was undertaken for the protection of the quarters for the Principal of the Patna College, and the Bihar School of Engineering.

A revetment was also constructed below the quarters for the Factory Superintendent at Gulzarbagh.

Thorough repairs to the existing revetments along the river Ganges which had been damaged by the high floods of the last season, were in progress.

Cross Sections of the river Ganges below the Collector's Court, the Patna College, and the Bihar School of Engineering were taken for record.

An embankment was constructed to protect the town of Madhipura from the floods of the Kosi river. The raising of the Bhagalpur road from the junction of this new embankment to the Railway level-crossing, was also undertaken for the same purpose.

The works of (1) raising and strengthening the right bank of the Patna Canal from the 80th mile to Digha and (2) constructing an embankment and an approach road east of the East Indian Railway near the Punpun river, for the protection of the country east of the Canal, including the Civil Station of Bankipore, which were started last year, were nearly completed at the close of the year.

The embankment which was under construction for the safety of the civil buildings at Bhadrak was completed.

337. The work of improving the drainage of the Court compound at Bhadrak which was in progress, was finished during the year. **Drainage.**

338. The application of the Sijua (Jharia) Electric Supply Company, Limited, for the sanction of the Local Government to the supply of electrical energy to certain areas in the Jharia coalfields in the district of Manbhum was still under the consideration of Government. **Electric supply.**

The Chief Inspector of Mines in India was appointed by the Government of India, as a temporary measure, an Electric Inspector, for supervising the installations of electrical machineries in the mining areas in Bihar and Orissa.

A four months Automatic Bacon Light was erected at the Shortt's Island in the district of Cuttack, at a cost of Rs. 11,590.

Railways.

339. There are no railways under the direct administration of the Government of Bihar and Orissa. With the exception of the following three Light Railway lines of local importance, which are subject to a certain measure of control by the Local Government, all the important lines are under the direct administration of the Government of India in the Railway Department (Railway Board):— **Administration.**

	Gauge.	Mileage.
(1) Arrah-Sassaram Light Railway	2′ 6″	65·26
(2) Bakhtiyarpur-Bihar Light Railway	2′ 6″	33·00
(3) Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway	2′ 6″	23·83
Total ...		122·09

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Additions to Mileage.

340. During the year under report no new railway line was opened to traffic. The total mileage on 31st March 1917 was, therefore, as before—

	Miles.
(1) Standard Gauge	1,692·30
(2) Metre „	1,178·66
(3) 2′ 6″ „	269·31
(4) 2′ 0″ „	39·00
Total ...	3,179·27

Lines sanctioned or under construction.

341. The following lines were under construction or sanctioned for construction during the year:—

	Gauge.	Miles.
Fatwa-Islampur	2′ 6″	27·00
Mayurbhanj extension (Baripada to Talband)	2′ 6″	38·71
Bengal-Nagpur Railway from Kendra to Gomharia ...	5′ 6″	5·53
Panposh-Raipura	5′ 6″	14·30
Portion of the Raipur-Parbatipuram section of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway (from a point near Gurjadota to a point near Bhowanipatna road)	5′ 6″	92·00

Surveys completed.

342. The following surveys were completed during the year:—

	Gauge.	Miles.
Chakradharpur-Jaintgarh	2′ 6″	56·00

Surveys sanctioned.

343. Authority was given by the Railway Board to undertake the following surveys during the year:—

(1) To the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company for a detailed survey for extensions on the broad gauge of the Kalimati-Gurumahisani Branch from (1) Gurumahisani to Gurumahisani mines and (2) Onlajori to Badampahar or Sulaipet, distances of 4 and 22 miles respectively.

(2) To the Eastern Bengal Railway for a reconnaissance survey for a line of railway on the metre gauge from Raiganj, a Station on the Katihar-Parbatipur section of the Eastern Bengal Railway to Eklakhi, a Station on the Katihar-Godagiri Section of the same railway, a distance of about 28 miles.

(3) To the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company for a detailed survey for a line of railway on the 2′ 6″ gauge from Lohardaga, a station on the Purulia-Lohardaga Section of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to Netarhat plateau, a distance of about 34 miles.

Accidents.

344. On the 15th April 1916, while No. 4-Down Bakhtiyarpur-Bihar Light Railway mixed train was approaching Wena Station all four wheels of 1st and 2nd class composite carriage No. 3, the 8th vehicle from the Engine, were derailed at mile 10-10 causing a detention of 27 minutes to the train to tranship passengers, etc. No. 3-Up train was detained owing to the line being blocked. No passenger was injured.

While No. 2-Down Bakhtiyarpur-Bihar Light Railway mixed train was passing mile 13-15 between Bhagan-Bigha and Pachasa Station on the 22nd September 1916, the leading pair of wheels of loaded covered goods wagon No. 105 left the rails, causing a detention of 4 hours and 45 minutes to the train. No injuries were caused to either passengers or staff.

On the 4th April 1916 while No. 4-Down mixed was passing mile 10 on the Bakhtiyarpur-Bihar Light Railway a deaf woman suddenly attempted to cross the line at mile post 10-13 immediately in front of the train and was run over and killed.

When the Down Special Goods of the Bakhtiyarpur-Bihar Light Railway was passing between Soh and Pachasa on the 19th April 1916, the Engine of the train collided with a branch of a pipal tree which had apparently been broken by the storm and fallen across the track causing slight damage to the Engine, 3 goods vehicles and brake van. The Driver was also lsightly injured and the train was detained for 19 minutes.

A woman was run over and killed near Wena Station on the Bakhtiyarpur-Bihar Light Railway by 3-Up train of 25th April 1916.

While empty trucks were being shunted off No. 4-Down at Rajgirkund Station yard at about 13-50 on the 9th March 1917, to be taken down to the Ballast siding, a ballast cooly boy aged about 13 years in attempting to jump on to one of the trucks, in which four other cooly boys were seated, missed his footing and was run over and killed.

While No. 4-Down Bakhtiyarpur-Bihar Light Railway mixed train was passing mile 18-1 between Bihar and Bihar Kachahri at about 16-0 on the 26th February 1917, a trespasser in attempting to cross the line was knocked down by the Engine and received slight injuries.

Canals—Irrigation and Navigation.

[Administration Report of Irrigation Works, Bihar and Orissa, for the year 1916-17.]

345. The transactions of the Irrigation Department for the year 1916-17, so far as they relate to works of Irrigation and Navigation, are shown in the statement below :— **Expenditure.**

Capital Account.

Heads.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1916-17.	Expenditure to end of 1916-17.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1917.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
PROTECTIVE IRRIGATION WORKS—				
Direct charges	82,88,279	90,902	79,41,991	3,46,288
Indirect charges	2,25,222	2,243	2,20,360	4,862
Total ...	85,13,501	93,145	81,62,351	3,51,150
PRODUCTIVE IRRIGATION WORKS—				
Direct charges	5,26,48,013	16,870	5,24,12,898	2,35,115
Indirect charges	15,25,735	444	15,30,317	—4,582
Total ...	5,41,73,748	17,314	5,39,43,215	2,30,533
MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION—				
Direct charges	6,86,883	...	6,86,883	...
Indirect charges	27,923	...	27,923	...
Total ...	7,14,806	...	7,14,806	...

Revenue Accounts.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working expenses.			Net Revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works* ...	25,29,408	14,51,696	1,19,070	15,70,766	9,58,642
MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.					
Works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept.	800	507	22	529	271
Works for which only Revenue Accounts are kept.	5,845	32,354	1,536	33,890	—28,045
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.	1,693	2,991	...	2,991	—1,298

*Protective and Productive.

Irrigations.

346. The following statements show the areas irrigated during the year compared with the average of the triennial period ending with March 1916 :—

Major Works—(Productive).

	Orissa Canals.			Sone Canals.			Total.		
	Kharif inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.	*Kharif* inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.	*Kharif* inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the Triennium, 1913–16 ...	271,399	7,908	279,307	466,087	99,237	565,324	737,486	107,145	844,631
		(a)			(b)			(c)	
For 1916-17	273,738	4,867	278,605	462,701	70,264	532,965	736,439	75,131	811,570

(a) Season lease.

(b) Includes long lease 27,416 acres and season lease 42,637 acres.

(c) Includes long lease 27,416 acres and season lease 47,504 acres.

NOTE.—All collections for Season leases (*Rabi*) are made in the following year (1917-18) but those for long leases are made during year (1916-17).

Major Works—(Protective).

	Triveni Canal.			Dhaka Canal.			Total.		
	Kharif inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.	*Kharif* inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.	*Kharif* inclusive of hot weather	*Rabi.*	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the Triennium, 1913—16.	57,221	...	57,221	6,802	360	7,162	64,023	360	64,383
					(a)			(a)	
For 1916-17 ...	28,107	...	28,107	3,161	202	3,363	31,268	202	31,470

(a) Season lease.

Minor Works.

	Saran Canals.			Teur Canal.			Total.		
	Kharif inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.	*Kharif* inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.	*Kharif* inclusive of hot weather.	*Rabi.*	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Average of the Triennium, 1913—16.	Canal closed.		...	1,620	36	1,656*	1,620	36	1,656*
For 1916-17 ...	...	...	...	712	...	712†	712	...	712†

* Includes the Madhuban Zamindar's *zirat* land.

† Includes 119 acres of the Madhuban Zamindar's *zirat* land.

NOTE.—All collections for season lease (*rabi*) are made in the following year (1917-18) and those for long leases are made during the year (1916-17).

347. The lengths of canals and distributaries in operation during the year 1916-17 compared with the previous year are as follows:— **Length of Canals.**

	Orissa Canals.		Sone Canals.		Tributary Canal.		Dhaka Canal.		Saran Canals.*		Teur Canal.	
	1915-16	1916-17	1915-16	1916-17	1915-16	1916-17	1915-16	1916-17	1915-16	1916-17	1915-16	1916-17
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Main canals (Irrigation)	223¾	223¾	218½	218½	61¼	61¼	3½	3½	11·57	11·57	6·18	6·18
Branch canal (Irrigation)	103	103	148¾	148¾	...	...	15⅝	15⅝				
Distributaries	1,285⅞	1,290¾	1,234½	1,236½	160·63	160·63	23¹¹⁄₁₆	23¹¹⁄₁₆	12·48	12·48	6·13	6·13
Of above—Navigable channels ...	204¾	204¾	218½	218½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

* Canals closed since the 1st April 1894.

† Includes minor channels.

348. The following statement shows the traffic on the Navigable Canals during the year 1916-17, compared with the average of the triennium 1913—16:— **Navigation.**

	Orissa Canals.		Sone Canals.		Orissa Coast Canal.	
	Average for the triennium ending with March 1916.	For the year 1916-17.	Average for the triennium ending with March 1916.	For the year 1916-17.	Average for the triennium ending with March 1916.*	For the year 1916-17.†
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Length of canal open ...	204¾	204¾	218½	218½	...	95½
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts	71,050	72,268	21,095	17,068	...	5,205
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Tonnage of boats by canal measurement.	396,037	408,243	45,642	41,734	...	30,156
Estimated weight of cargo exclusive of rafts.	139,443	129,153	16,497	15,139	...	10,466
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Estimated value of goods ...	1,14,28,685	1,10,60,886	12,23,735	7,81,784	...	7,04,264
Estimated value of rafts ...	4,36,126	3,38,442	3,54,402	2,78,326	...	14,900

* Triennial average in column 6 not struck, as the figures in the Accounts for the first two years relate to the whole length of the canal lying in the two Provinces, Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, while those for the third year relate only to that portion of the Canal that lies in this Province.

† For 95½ miles only lying in the Province of Bihar and Orissa.

The classification of the works dealt with in this review is as follows :—

I.—Major Works.—(*a*) *Protective works*, designed as a protection against famine. The works comprised in this class are the Tribeni and Dhaka Canals, for which projects were sanctioned in the year 1900-1. Both these canals are in operation and are intended for irrigation only.

The Tribeni Canal has been constructed in order to bring the water of the Gandak river to the rice-growing area north of the Sikrana river in Champaran. The construction estimate of the canal was closed on the 31st March 1914, and for the works which were either then incomplete or not begun, a schedule was sanctioned by the Government of India in 1915, the date of their completion being fixed as 31st March 1920.

The flood of the year 1915 having caused considerable damage to the canal works, it was considered necessary to provide some additional drainage crossings on the Canal to enable it to withstand the effects of normal high flood in future. Detailed projects for some of these works were sanctioned by the Government of India in March 1917, as chargeable to the open Capital Account.

The construction estimate of the Dhaka Canal was closed on the 31st March 1908, and the sanctioned schedule of incomplete works, on the 31st March 1913.

(*b*) *Productive Works.*—The works falling under this class are the Orissa and the Sone Canals which were constructed for both irrigation and navigation. Their original account was under the wholly Imperial head "49" but all present capital outlay is charged against the divided head "43"—Minor Works and Navigation.

II.—Minor Works and Navigation.—The works comprised in this class are :—

(*a*) The Saran Canals, for which both Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept. They are intended for irrigation only, but have practically remained closed since the 1st April 1894. A proposal to abandon the canals altogether is under consideration.

(*b*) The Orissa Coast Canal, for which the Revenue Account only is kept. This canal is meant for navigation only. It lies partly in Bengal and partly in Bihar and Orissa. This report treats only of the portion of the Canal which lies in this Province—a total length of 95½ miles.

(*c*) The Teur (Madhuban) Canal for which neither Capital nor Revenue Account is kept. It is a very small work and is intended for irrigation only.

The transactions of the year for each of the above works are briefly stated in the following summary :—

ORISSA CIRCLE.

MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS (PRODUCTIVE).

Orissa Canals.

Capital Account.

349. The expenditure (direct charges) debited to the Capital Account of the Orissa Canals during the year was Rs. 9,943, bringing the total Capital outlay to the end of the year to Rs. 2,64,61,515.

Works in Progress.

350. This expenditure was chiefly incurred on constructing minor distributaries on High Level Canal, Range III, Pattamundi and Machgaon Canals.

The construction of permanent outlets in the Pattamundi Canal and its distributaries was also completed.

The work of replacing the front shutters in one of the bays of the Burra Weir by Marchant's pattern of improved adjustable shutters of the French type was taken in hand during the year. A project for remodelling the Baitarani Weir to provide more waterway for high floods was under consideration.

351. During the year under report nearly five miles ofmin or distributaries were added. **Length of Distributaries.**

352. The average rainfall at the 13 recording stations on the Orissa Canals was 66·79 inches against 65·30 inches in 1915-16 and 66·82 inches in 1914-15. The total fall was normal, but it was not well distributed, as after a very dry July, the heavy rainfall of October damaged the rice crop which was then in flower, and the abnormal rainfall in February damaged the *rabi* crop to a great extent. **Rainfall.**

353. The area irrigated during the year was 278,605 acres against 276,264 acres of the preceding year. The amount assessed for water-rates during the year was Rs. 4,60,707 against Rs. 4,51,748 of the previous year. Less than 0·1 per cent of the demand remained uncollected at the end of the year. **Irrigation.**

354. The receipts from Navigation tolls on the Orissa Canals were Rs. 72,268 against Rs. 69,253 in the previous year and an average of Rs. 71,730 for the preceding five years. The amount of the total tollage earnings for the year under report includes Rs. 5,825 realized in excess from the Steamer Company for daily service, which could not be refunded to the company within the year under review. The actual receipts were therefore Rs. 66,443, the decrease being mainly due to traffic in jute and provisions being slack. **Navigation.**

355. The revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) during the year were Rs. 5,79,442 and Rs. 5,11,584 respectively against Rs. 5,69,265 and Rs. 5,11,079 of the previous year, the result being a net revenue of Rs. 67,858 against Rs. 58,186 of the preceding year. **Financial results.**

356. The following closures took place for annual repairs :— **Closure of canals.**

Name of Canal.	From	To
Taldanda Canal	21st April 1916	29th May 1916.
Machgaon „	Ditto	8th June 1916.
Kendrapara „	1st June 1916	16th June 1916.
Do. Extension		
Gobri Canal		
Do. Extension	Ditto	21st June 1916.
Pattamundi Canal		
High Level Canal, Range I	(*a*) first reach, 18th May 1916, (*b*) second reach, 17th May 1916.	16th June 1916.
Do., Range II	22nd April 1916	15th June 1916.
Do., Range III	8th May 1916	8th June 1916.
Jajpur Canal	1st May 1916	Ditto.

There were no severe storms or high floods during the year.

MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

357. The portion of the canal (viz., 95½ miles) lying in this Province was maintained in fair order and was open to traffic throughout the year. Range V of the canal was silted up very badly, but silt clearance could not be done as a dredger was not available. **Orissa Coast Canal.**

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 5,681 and Rs. 33,726, against Rs. 5,129 and Rs. 42,394, respectively, of the preceding year.

SONE CIRCLE.

MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS (PRODUCTIVE).

Sone Canals.

Capital Account.

358. Under the head "43.—Minor Works and Navigation" the following works were done:—

(*i*) A minor distributary from the Kochas Distributary of the Chausa Branch Canal was completed at a total cost of Rs. 3,847 against an estimate of Rs. 3,945.

(*ii*) A syphon on the Khargarh distributary was taken in hand during the year.

(*iii*) The conversion of the Opium Buildings at Daudnagar into an Inspection Bungalow and Revenue Staff Quarters was practically completed during the year.

Rainfall.

359. The average rainfall of the 12 stations in the three divisions was 47·49 inches compared with the averages of 37·21 and 35·82 inches respectively in the years 1915-16 and 1914-15 and the average of 41·72 inches of the previous 20 years. The total rainfall over the irrigated tract was above the average. The rainfall was evenly distributed throughout the year and extended well into November, and hence there was no difficulty in meeting all demands for canal water during the *Hathia* season.

Irrigation.

360. The area irrigated during the year was 532,965 acres against 539,683 acres in the preceding year. The *Kharif* and hot weather area was 9,291 acres below the average area of the previous four years. The *Rabi* area was 45,136 acres below the average of the same period and 6,475 acres below that of the previous year. This falling off in the *Rabi* area was due to the unusual rainfall of the year, especially in October and November. The *Rabi* areas for the years 1912-13 and 1914-15 were, however, extraordinarily high.

The demand for water-rates falling due during the year amounted to Rs. 17,72,664 against Rs. 19,18,406 of the preceding year. The decrease is due partly to the fact that the receipts from *Rabi* leases were considerably below those of the previous year 1915-16, and also to some delay in passing leases for *Kharif* owing to the reluctance of the cultivators to repair their boundary *bandhs*. The amount assessed was collected practically in full before the end of the year.

Navigation Receipts.

361. The navigation receipts were Rs. 17,068 against Rs. 16,900 of the preceding year, and an average of Rs. 21,664 of the previous five years. The receipts from tolls have decreased in recent years owing to a reduction in the export of grains and miscellaneous goods.

Financial results.

362. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were respectively Rs. 18,74,156 and Rs. 7,66,849 against Rs. 20,07,225 and Rs. 8,08,703 of the previous year, giving a net revenue of Rs. 11,07,307 against Rs. 11,98,522 in 1915-16.

Floods.

363. There was no high flood in the Sone river but the floods which occurred were moderate in size and of short duration. The Main Eastern and Western Canals were closed against all the floods except that the Western Canal had to be reopened towards the end of August owing to the demand for water.

Flushing operations.

364. The Main Western Canal was flushed on five occasions, the flushing during August and September lasting each time for 16 days. The maximum supply passed down was 4,253 cusecs. The result of the flushing was a decrease of 685,064 cubic feet of silt in the bed of the canal in the first five miles against a decrease of 823,682 cubic feet last year.

The Main Eastern Canal was flushed on five occasions during the season, the maximum supply passed down the canal being 2,015 cusec. There were 500,591 cubic feet of silt deposited at the end of the season on the bed of the canal in the first two miles against 165,860 cubic feet washed away last year.

365. The United Provinces Karamnasa project having been dropped, the scheme for irrigating rice-lands in the Bhabua Subdivision of the Shahabad District from the Karamnasa river in the Benares State has been indefinitely postponed. **The Karamnasa Irrigation Scheme.**

GANDAK CIRCLE.

PROTECTIVE IRRIGATION WORKS.

Tribeni Canal.

366. The expenditure (direct charges) debited to the Capital Account of the Tribeni Canal during the year was Rs. 90,902. The total capital outlay for direct charges to the end of the year stands at Rs. 73,71,818. **Capital Account.**

367. The full length of the main canal, viz., 61¼ miles is complete. The construction of the Rohua culvert was completed during the year under report. **Works completed or in progress.**

With a view to rendering it safe against normal high floods, some additional works are being provided on the Tribeni Canal. Of these, the construction of a new inlet at 37 miles 3,340 feet was completed, and materials for the reconstruction of the Balua inlet at the 14th mile 3,320 feet of the canal were collected during the year under report. The construction of a 10 vent brick-work syphon under the canal to carry the Khunti *nala* at 33 miles 50 feet of the Canal in place of the 2 vent masonry syphon destroyed in 1915 was put in hand.

368. As reported last year, all the distributaries have been completed except two, viz., the Rangi and Deulia distributaries at the end of the canal, on which work was suspended owing to paucity of funds. **Distributaries and village channels.**

No village channels were constructed by the villagers during the year. It was, however, decided to construct all the absolutely necessary village channels on one distributary at Government expense as an experiment, and surveys for village channels from the Gokhula Distributary were in progress at the end of the year.

369. The rainfall was generally in excess of the average and the even distribution of the fall throughout the season materially affected the demand for irrigation. The total rainfall for the year was 79·62 inches at Ramnagar and 80·01 inches at Maniari against 109·59 and 79·33 inches respectively in the previous year. **Rainfall.**

370. There were no very high floods in the river Gandak during the year under report. On the 3rd September 1916, the river rose to 970·00, which is 4·80 feet less than the flood level of the previous year and 8 feet lower than the highest recorded flood (1902). The rise in the river, which began later than usual, delayed the opening of the canal until the 9th June 1916. There were no exceptional floods in any of the rivers crossing the canal. **Floods.**

371. The total area irrigated was 28,107 acres against 54,090 acres in the preceding year and an average of 57,221 acres of the preceding three years. The abnormal fall in the area irrigated is attributable to well-distributed rainfall in July and October, the two critical periods for rice. **Irrigation.**

372. The revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) during the year were Rs. 62,948 and Rs. 2,71,329, respectively, against Rs. 1,17,528 and Rs. 2,86,060, respectively, of the previous year, the result being a net deficit of Rs. 2,08,381 against the deficit of Rs. 1,68,532 of the preceding year. The water-rates were realized as usual by the establishment maintained under the Collector but paid for by the Public Works Department. **Financial results.**

373. Preliminary surveys were completed for extending the Tribeni Canal (2nd portion) from Telauhi to Teur. This portion had to be done first in order to determine to what point it would be advisable to work out the extension project. **Extension of the Tribeni Canal.**

Dhaka Canal.

Capital account.

374. The total capital outlay (direct charges) up to the end of 1916-17 was Rs. 5,70,173. No expenditure was incurred on the canal during the year under this head.

Financial results.

375. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal were Rs. 8,584 and Rs. 16,726, respectively, against Rs. 15,543 and Rs. 19,395 respectively in the preceding year, giving a net deficit of Rs. 8,142 against the deficit of Rs. 3,852 of the preceding year. The decrease in revenue is due to diminution of the irrigated areas owing to well-distributed rainfall.

Rainfall.

376. The total rainfall of the year was 78·52 inches against 60·44 inches of the previous year.

Floods.

377. The flood in the river Lalbakia was higher than the previous records. It rose to 107·60 up-stream and 105·80 down-stream of the weir against 106·70 and 105·70 respectively of the 12th August 1902, the highest flood levels previously recorded. In addition to several small breaches in the Main Canal and Patahi branch, the flood caused very deep scours on the up-stream side of the weir as a result of which the up-stream wing wall of the head sluice collapsed and some block pitching in the bed was also scoured away.

Irrigation.

378. The total area irrigated from the Dhaka Canal was 3,363 acres against 6,692 acres in the preceding year: this considerable decrease in area irrigated was due to seasonable rainfall during the year.

The supply in the river was sufficient to meet the demand for irrigation except for a brief period from 17th May to 16th June 1916.

The water-rates of the Dhaka Canal, as in the case of the Tribeni Canal, were collected by the establishment maintained under the Collector and paid for by the Public Works Department.

MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

WORKS FOR WHICH CAPITAL AND REVENUE ACCOUNTS ARE KEPT.

The Saran Canals.

379. The Saran Canals are 19 miles * in length, and have remained practically closed since 1894. The proposal to abandon the canals altogether is still under consideration.

There was no capital outlay on the canals in the year under review. The maintenance charges (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 529 against Rs. 1,165 in the preceding year. The miscellaneous revenue derived amounted to Rs. 800 against Rs. 1,131 of the previous year.

WORKS FOR WHICH NEITHER CAPITAL NOR REVENUE ACCOUNT IS KEPT.

The Teur (Madhuban) Canal.

380. The Teur Canal is the only work of this class. It is 6·18 miles in length with one (Lakhaura) distributary (6·13 miles long).

The canal was maintained at a total cost of Rs. 2,133, exclusive of establishment charges, against Rs. 1,780 of the previous year. No original works were carried out during the year.

The total area irrigated inclusive of the *zirat* land of the Madhuban Zamindar, which was irrigated free of charge, was 712 acres against 1,693 acres of the previous year. This large decrease in the area irrigated during the year was due to the satisfactory rainfall throughout the *Kharif* season and to good rain during the *Hathia*, which diminished the demand for *rabi* irrigation.

The rainfall of the year was 71·41 inches against 60·16 inches of the previous year. The supply of the river was satisfactory throughout the year.

There was only one project of importance under consideration, viz., that for the irrigation of a part of south Monghyr from the Kiul river. The project involves two or three storage reservoirs and two pick-up dams. The contour survey of the Sukjor reservoir in connection with this scheme was completed during the year under review. It is very doubtful if the scheme will be cheap enough to justify construction at Government expense.

* 24·05 miles including minor channels.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Imperial Revenue and Finance.

381. The following statement shows the Imperial revenue and expenditure for the year 1916-17 as compared with those of 1915-16 :— **Imperial Receipts and Expenditure.**

RECEIPTS.

(*Figures are in thousands of rupees.*)

Major heads.	1915-16.	1916-17.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I. Land Revenue	72,48	76,41	393	...
II. Opium	332	449	117	...
III. Salt	1	...	...	1
IV. Stamps	33,49	36,61	312	...
V. Excise	27,43	28,07	64	...
VII. Customs	1	1	...	...
VIII. Income-tax	7,14	10,11	2,97	...
XI. Tributes	86	86	...	...
XII. Interest	1	2	1	...
XXII. Receipts in aid of superannuation ...	86	74	...	12
XXIII. Stationery and Printing	...	...	...	...
XXV. Miscellaneous	13	8	...	5
XXIX. Irrigation, Major Works.—By Public Works Department.	13,60	12,65	...	95
XXX. Irrigation, Minor Works.—By Civil Department.	25	27	2	...
By Public Works Department ...	8	8	...	...
XXXI. Civil Works	28	48	20	...
Transfer from Imperial to Provincial Revenues ...	—56,73	—46,79	9,94	...
Total ...	1,03,22	1,24,09	22,00	1,13

EXPENDITURE.

(Figures are in thousands of rupees.)

Major heads.	1915-16.	1916-17.	Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Refund and drawbacks	44	50	6	...
2 Assignments and Compensation ...	51	52	1	...
3. Land Revenue	10,07	9,16	...	91
5. Salt	75	76	1	...
6. Stamps	89	96	7	...
7. Excise...	1,46	1,45	...	1
9. Customs	17	15	...	2
10. Income-tax	23	23	...	...
14. Interest on other obligations	95	1,08	13	...
18. General Administration	2,65	2,79	14	...
23. Ecclesiastical	35	34	...	1
27. Territorial and Political pensions ...	70	47	...	23
28. Civil Furlough and Absentee allowance ...	2	5	3	...
29. Superannuation allowances and pensions ...	2	3	1	...
30. Stationery and Printing	13	6	...	7
32. Miscellaneous	30	46	16	...
33. Famine Relief	75	2,02	1,27	...
35. Construction of Protective Irrigation Works	63	1,02	39	...
42. Irrigation—Major Works (working expenses)	7,59	7,26	...	33
42. Irrigation—Interest on Debt	11,91	11,34	...	57
43. Minor Works and Navigation—				
(1) By Civil Department	2	2	...	...
(2) By Public Works Department ...	1,40	1,22	...	18
45. Civil Works—Public Works Department ...	4,94	1,69	...	3,25
49. Outlay on Irrigation works	...	—2	...	2
Total ...	46,88	43,56	2,28	5,60

Receipts.—There was a net increase of 2,087 as compared with the actuals for 1915-16 owing to larger receipts under Land Revenue, Opium, Stamps, Excise, Income-tax, and smaller contributions from Imperial to Provincial. The increase under Land Revenue was due to larger recoveries of Survey and Settlement charges, and that under Opium was the result mainly of the enhancement of the cost price credited to Imperial revenues. The marked decrease under Irrigation Major Works—Direct receipts—was due to a smaller demand for water owing to seasonable rainfall.

Expenditure.—There was a net decrease of 332 in expenditure as compared with the previous year. The chief decreases were under Land Revenue (91), Territorial and Political Pensions (23), Irrigation—Major Works—Working expenses (33), and Interest on Debt (57), and Civil Works (325). The decrease under Land Revenue was due to smaller expenditure on Survey and Settlement. The large decrease in Public Works Department expenditure was due to decreased expenditure on original works. The most noticeable increase was under Famine Relief due to the outbreak of famine in Singhbhum.

Land Revenue.

[*See* Chapter II of the Report.]

Canal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of the Report—Canals.]

Sources of Revenue other than land.

Customs.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1916-17—Statistics of British India, Part IV (*b*), Finance and Revenue.]

382. The Revenue realized during the year amounted to Rs. 8,086 only against Rs. 35,840 in 1915-16. No refunds were granted. For this marked decrease, continuing the decline of the previous year, the war is responsible. The fall in receipts from duty on bonded salt was due to the lack of tonnage which led local dealers to import their salt by rail from Calcutta. **Customs Revenue.**

383. In Balasore there were two prosecutions for plying boats without a license against nine in the preceding year. A sum of Rs. 6 was realized in fines. **Breach of Customs laws.**

384. No proceedings were taken under the Act in any of the districts of the Province during the year under review. **Indian Merchandise Marks Act.**

Salt.

385. As in previous years, there was no direct importation of salt from foreign countries into any of the ports of this Province. There are only two bonded warehouses, both owned by Messrs. Turner Morrison & Co. Foreign salt is imported into these warehouses from the Calcutta salt *golas*. The total quantity of salt imported was 6,000 maunds as compared with 36,000 maunds in 1915-16 and 81,986 maunds in 1914-15. The total imports thus fell short of those in 1915-16 by 30,000 maunds and of the quantity imported in 1914-15 by 75,986 maunds. The heavy decrease in imports is due to the fact that, as in the preceding years, the leading merchants of Kendrapara and Jajpur in the district of Cuttack imported salt direct from Calcutta, as there were no vessels available to carry salt from Calcutta to Chandbali, those plying on this line being employed on special duty. **Imports.**

386. The quantity of salt consumed in Cuttack, Balasore, Angul, and Puri and in the Feudatory States which take their supplies of salt from these districts was 1,163,528 maunds against 1,160,192 maunds in the previous year. The average consumption per head was higher by one chitak than in 1915-16. Figures for other portions of the Province are not available. **Consumption and prices.**

Liverpool salt was sold at Chandbali in Balasore at Rs. 7-12-0 per bag of 2 maunds as against Rs. 4-5-6 to Rs. 5-11-6 in the preceding year.

Preventive Measures.

387. The total number of offences against the salt laws reported during 1916-17 was 451 against 299 in the previous year. The increase in crime is attributed partly to the increase in price of food-stuffs due to the war and to the light punishments imposed in the preceding year and in the first half of 1916-17 in some of the Courts ; and partly to higher prices charged for licit salt, but mainly to the hold that illicit manufacture has taken on the villagers owing to the entire withdrawal of the salt force from the saline area for " special duty " on the coast and to the reduction of men effected by the amalgamation of the Excise and Salt Department.

Out of a total of 451 cases reported, 83 remained undetected. In 149 cases the accused were dealt with departmentally and let off with warnings. Of the 241 cases that were tried during the year (including 22 pending from the previous year) eleven cases were still pending with the Magistrates at the close of the year, 227 ended in convictions and 3 resulted in acquittals. The number of cases in which salt or salt earth was seized was 368 against 177 in the previous year ; the quantity of salt seized was 78 maunds against 20 maunds in 1915-16.

On account of the large increase in crime two Head-constables were deputed to accompany patrol parties and be present at house searches in accordance with the provisions of section 18 of the Salt Act.

As in the previous years, duty on salt imported under bond from Calcutta into the warehouses at Chandbali in Balasore was credited in Calcutta under the head " Customs duty on salt ". Similarly duty on Madras salt imported into Orissa was paid in Madras. There were, therefore, no realizations in this Province on account of duty on salt and the only receipts were on account of sale-proceeds of old stores and materials, Rs. 40, and miscellaneous, Rs. 291.

The Salt Department in Orissa was amalgamated with the Provincial Excise Department from the 1st October 1916 and under orders of the Government of India no charges are to be recorded under " 5—Salt ", except a fixed adjusting entry of Rs. 76,000 representing the annual contribution of the Imperial Government to the Local Government for taking over all expenses of the salt staff in Orissa.

Trade in Saltpetre.

388. The number of saltpetre refineries in Bihar was 227 against 213 in the previous year. The quantity of crude saltpetre dissolved was 366,972 maunds and that of refined saltpetre produced was 247,217 maunds against 334,897 maunds and 232,871 maunds, respectively, in the previous year. The quantity of salt educed in the manufacture and refinement of saltpetre was 31,980 maunds, out of which 25,693 maunds were removed on payment of duty against 21,399 maunds removed in 1915-16.

Excise.

[Report on the administration of the Excise Department, Bihar and Orissa, for 1916-17.]

Administrative changes.

389. The principal administrative changes which took place during the year were :—

(1) The amalgamation with effect from the 1st October 1916 of the Salt Establishment in Orissa with the Provincial Excise Establishment and the formation of a close service of Superintendents of Excise and Salt replacing the Excise Deputy Collectors and the Superintendent of Salt, and the creation from that date of a new post of Deputy Commissioner of Excise and Salt to relieve the Commissioner of Excise and Salt of part of his inspection work and to assist him generally in the administration of the combined department.

(2) The introduction of the Bihar and Orissa Act II of 1915, which re-enacts and amends Bengal Act V of 1909, with effect from the 1st April 1916.

(3) Enhancement of the rates of duty on country spirits for strengths above 70° U. P. in the rural areas of the districts of Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Saran, Monghyr, and Bhagalpur and the extension of the area in Monghyr district to which the urban rate of duty is applicable.

(4) Abolition of the excise duty on denatured spirit of local manufacture;

(5) Enhancement of the rate of duty on *ganja* in the districts of Shahabad, Saran and Champaran;

(6) Enhancement of the Treasury prices of opium in the districts of the Orissa Division and in Singhbhum;

(7) Revision of the rate at which the Imperial Government supplies excise opium;

(8) Withdrawal of the restrictions which had been imposed in previous years on issues of opium to retail shops in several districts;

(9) Prescription of the rate of duty on *bhang* exported to the States of Bonai, Gangpur, Kharsawan and Seraikela;

(10) Establishment of a neutral zone free from all excise shops on either side of the border between British districts and Native States in the Central Provinces and between British districts and Native States in Bihar and Orissa, and,

(11) The establishment of a similar zone on the border between Nepal and this Province.

390. Local Advisory Committees were formed in December 1916 on the same lines, as in the previous year, to advise Collectors on the settlement proposals for 1917-18. In deference to their recommendations, sixteen *tari* shops, six country liquor shops and one outstill were abolished, the sites of eight *tari* shops, five country liquor shops and three *pachwai* shops were changed, one *pachwai* shop was opened and two *tari* shops and four country spirit shops were screened from public view. The Advisory Committees of the preceding year were invited to meet again in July to discuss general matters of policy concerning excise. The following were among the more important subjects discussed at the meetings:— **Local Advisory Committees.**

(*i*) Curtailment of hours of sale of *ganja* and *bhang*;

(*ii*) Closure of *tari* shops at sunset;

(*iii*) Prohibition of the practice of employing young women in *tari* shops for the sale of *tari*;

(*iv*) Circulation among the members of the Advisory Committees of the figures of consumption of country spirit;

(*v*) Restriction on the issues to retail shops of opium in Balasore;

(*vi*) Opening of tea and coffee shops near the liquor shops as a counter-attraction;

(*vii*) Anti-alcoholic education by religious instruction, and

(*viii*) Introduction of uniform weights and measures in retail shops.

391. There has been a total increase of over 7½ lakhs of rupees as compared with the figures of the preceding year and of over Rupees 1⅓ lakhs compared with the pre-war settlement figures of 1914-15, which were, till the current year, the highest figures recorded since the formation of the Province. The increase is attributed mainly to good harvests in the Province generally. **Results of settlement.**

392. The total excise revenue of the year amounted to a little over 112 lakhs of rupees showing an increase of 2½ lakhs over the preceding year, which was contributed by every head except *pachwai*, *bhang*, *charas* and cocaine. Country spirit, *ganja*, *tari* and opium account for 46·9 per cent, 23·3 per cent, 12·7 per cent and 14·5 per cent, respectively, of the total revenue. The incidence of excise revenue was five annas two pies per head of population against five annas one pie in the preceding year. **Revenue.**

Country spirit.

393. The total revenue under the contract supply system amounted to Rs. 41,31,854 against Rs. 39,51,302, while the revenue from outstills amounted to Rs. 11,38,870 against Rs. 12,36,606 in the previous year. There was an increase in consumption amounting to 84,000 gallons or over 9·3 per cent. of the previous year's consumption, which, in the opinion of the local officers, indicates not an increase in drinking but a decrease in illicit supply of the drink. The number of licenses for the retail sale of country spirit (contract and outstill) was reduced from 1,965 in 1915-16 to 1,941 in 1916-17.

Revision of rates of duty.

394. The rate of duty on strengths exceeding 70° U. P. was raised from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 3-2-0 per gallon L. P. of spirit consumed in the rural shops in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Saran, Monghyr, and Bhagalpur.

In the district of Monghyr the urban rate of duty (Rs. 3-2-0 per gallon L. P. for all strengths) was extended to a much larger area than before.

Maximum and Minimum prices.

395. The experiment commenced from 1st April 1914 of leaving retail prices unrestricted in the whole of Saran district and in the Sadr, Banka and Madhipura Subdivision of Bhagalpur continued during the year under review.

Tari.

396. The revenue derived from *tari* amounted to Rs. 14,36,161 against Rs. 13,98,475 in the preceding year. The number of licenses for retail sale of fermented *tari* was 6,022 as against 6,345 in 1915-16.

Pachwai.

397. License fees for the retail sale and home-brewing of *pachwai* brought in Rs. 1,38,229 in 1916-17 against Rs. 1,45,427 in 1915-16. The total number of licenses issued for retail sale of *pachwai* was 341 against 334 in 1915-16.

Foreign liquors.

398. Foreign liquors do not play an important part in the Excise Administration of Bihar and Orissa. The revenue from license fees in 1916-17 amounted to Rs. 34,195 as against Rs. 33,317 in 1915-16.

Ganja.

399. There was an increase of 64 maunds in the quantity of *ganja* accompanied by an increase in the revenue from Rs. 25,28,765 in 1915-16 to Rs. 6,26,661 in 1916-17. The number of licenses for the retail sale of *ganja* issued during the year was 1,251 as against 1,265 in 1915-16.

Bhang.

400. The total consumption of *bhang* in the Province fell from 457 maunds in 1915-16 to 433 maunds during the year under report and the revenue from duty and license fees amounted to Rs. 54,702 as against Rs. 57,634.

Charas.

401. The revenue from *charas* was Rs. 192 as against Rs. 202 in the preceding year. The consumption of this drug is insignificant.

Opium.

402. The total quantity of opium consumed within the Province was 840 maunds which, though showing an increase of 99 maunds over that consumed in 1915-16, was less than that in any previous year since 1910-11. The increase was due to the withdrawal of artificial restrictions on issues and better crops in 1916.

The revenue amounted to Rs. 16,37,451 or Rs. 42,394 more than in the previous year, as a result of increase in consumption and the enhancement of Treasury prices in the Orissa districts.

Cocaine.

403. The number of persons convicted of illicit sale or possession of cocaine during the year under review was 32 as against 62 in 1915-16. The marked falling off in the number of cases detected may have been the result to some extent of the vigilant watch of the Excise officers, but is believed to have been due mainly to the same causes as were mentioned in the report for 1915-16, viz., reduction in supply of the drug available to smugglers and inability of small capitalists to carry on the nefarious trade in consequence of the very high price which the drug now commands. The price of the smuggled article is said to have been no less than Rs. 160 an ounce during 1916-17.

404. The number of persons prosecuted for offences against the Excise and Opium Acts was 1,589 against 1,725 in the preceding year. Excise officers detected fewer cases than in 1915-16, in Patna (76 cases against 114), Champaran (25 cases against 77), Muzaffarpur (40 cases against 71), Purnea (25 cases against 55), and Manbhum (78 cases against 120). Police officers detected fewer cases than in 1915-16, in Muzaffarpur (4 cases against 14), Cuttack (4 cases against 13), Hazaribagh (8 cases against 22), and Singhbhum (19 cases against 37). The percentage of convictions to arrests was 87 against 88 in 1915-16. The number of persons imprisoned for offences against the Excise and Opium Acts was 295 against 328. There was a decrease of Rs. 830 in the amount of fines imposed. **Excise offences.**

STAMPS.

405. The revenue under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts amounted to Rs. 72,51,828, showing an increase of Rs. 6,08,384 over the receipts in the preceding year. The increase was under both heads "Judicial stamps" and "Non-judicial stamps", but was due mainly to the increased sales of Court-fee stamps. **Revenue.**

406. In 1915-16 there was a sudden fall of about a lakh and a half of rupees for no apparent special cause; in 1916-17, however, there was an equally unexpected increase of over rupees 6 lakhs, the chief factor apparently being the establishment of the High Court at Patna, in which district receipts under Court-fee stamps, rose from Rs. 3,92,371 to Rs. 5,35,163, while the progress of Settlement operations in Champaran and Gaya is reported to be mainly responsible for increases of Rs. 1,40,714 and Rs. 44,001, respectively, in those districts, while the increases in Muzaffarpur (Rs. 50,861) and Purnea (Rs. 94,979) are ascribed to the institution of suits of higher value and of important probate cases, respectively. **Judicial stamps.**

407. The income from sale of non-judicial stamps rose by Rs. 1,956. **Non-judicial stamps.**

408. The number of stamp-vendors was reduced to 1,268 from 1,297 in the previous year. There was, however, an increase of Rs. 2,387 in the discount allowed to vendors during the year under review. **Sale of stamps.**

The cases in which Civil Courts levied deficit duty and penalty numbered 1,160 against 1,054 in 1915-16 with an increase of Rs. 398 in the amounts realized from the levy. The number of cases decided by Revenue officers decreased from 440 to 414 with a corresponding decrease of Rs. 2,872 in the deficit duties and penalties levied.

409. Only one prosecution was instituted against seven in the previous year. This case had to be dropped, as the accused person died before trial. **Prosecutions under the Stamp Act.**

410. The number of cases in which inquiries were instituted during the year under review rose from 103 to 114 with a corresponding increase from 96 to 112 in the number of inquiries completed. The amount of deficit duty realized rose from Rs. 2,607 to Rs. 9,454. **Working of section 19-H of the Court-fees Act.**

411. Cases of fraud in connection with stamps were reported from two districts. **Frauds.**

INCOME-TAX.

412. The receipts, charges and net revenue of the year were Rs. 20,21,928, Rs. 47,965 and Rs. 19,73,963, respectively. The net revenue showed an increase of Rs. 5,90,730 or 42·7 per cent as compared with the year 1915-16. **Financial Results.**

413. The total collections showed an increase of Rs. 5,80,244 or 41·3 per cent over the collections of the preceding year. The large rise in the receipts for 1916-17 is due mainly to the enhancement of the rates of taxation under Act V of 1916. Apart from Monghyr, where there was an increase owing to the reassessment of the Peninsular Tobacco Company, the only other **Collections.**

district reporting any contributory causes worthy of note is Singhbhum, where there were increased receipts from salaries of the employés of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Limited, at Sakchi due to a general development of trade in the district.

Assessment.

414. The final number of assessees for 1916-17 increased by 617 or 3·2 per cent over the figures of the preceding year, and the final demand rose from Rs. 12,11,262 to Rs. 17,24,136. The number of assessees under Part IV paying on an income of more than Rs. 1,000 and less than Rs. 1,249 (formerly Rs. 1,250) fell from 5,887 in 1915-16 to 5,851.

The percentage of collection on the final demand was 96·5 against 98·6 in the previous year. The prescribed standard of 95 per cent was reached in all districts except Monghyr (84·8), the Santal Parganas (92·08) and Muzaffarpur (89·2).

Forest Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report.]

Provincial Finance.

Receipts and Expenditure.

415. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of provincial services for 1916-17 as compared with those of 1915-16.

[*Figures are in thousands of rupees.*]

Receipts.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Actuals, 1916-17.	Actuals, 1916-17, better (+) or worse (—) than 1915-16.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue—			
I.—Land Revenue	85,35	88,88	+353
IV.—Stamps	33,49	36,61	+312
V.—Excise	82,29	84,20	+191
VI.—Provincial Rates	183	125	—58
VIII.—Income-Tax	714	10,11	+297
IX.—Forests	518	529	+11
X.—Registration	696	681	—15
Total ...	2,22,24	2,33,15	+10,91
XII.—Interest	1,87	1,76	—11
Receipts by Civil Departments—			
XVIA.—Law and Justice—Courts ...	351	302	—49
XVIB.—Jails	683	789	+106
XVII.—Police	36	36	...
XIX.—Education	371	356	—15
XXA.—Medical	29	40	+11
XXB.—Sanitation	3	13	+10
XXIA.—Agriculture	26	31	+5
XXIB.—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	3	2	—1
Total ...	15,02	15,69	+67

Receipts.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Actuals, 1916-17.	Actuals, 1916-17, better (+) and worse (—) than 1915-16.
1	2	3	4
Miscellaneous—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation	32	40	+8
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	22	27	+5
XXV.—Miscellaneous	312	307	—5
Total ...	366	374	+8
Irrigation—			
XXIX.—Major Works—Direct Receipts—Public Works Department.	13,60	12,65	—95
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—			
(*a*) Civil	25	27	+2
(*b*) Public Works Department ...	8	8	...
Total ...	13,93	13,00	—93
Public Works—			
XXXI.—Civil Works—			
Civil	1,21	1,08	—13
Public Works Department ...	2,78	3,29	+51
Total ...	3,99	4,37	+38
Transfers between Imperial and Provincial Revenue.	56,73	46,79	—994
Total Revenue ...	3,17,44	3,18,50	+106

Expenditure.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Actuals, 1916-17.	Actuals, 1916-17, better (+) or worse (—) than 1915-16.
1	2	3	4
Direct demands on the Revenue—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Refunds and drawbacks	50	58	—8
2.—Assignments and compensation ...	51	50	+1
Total ...	1,01	1,08	—7
Charges in respect of collections—			
3.—Land Revenue	23,13	22,98	+15
6.—Stamps	89	96	—7
7.—Excise	4,39	4,36	+3
8.—Provincial Rates	...	...	...
10.—Income-Tax	23	23	...
11.—Forests	3,62	4,48	—86
12.—Registration	3,78	3,79	—1
Total ...	36,04	36,80	—76
13.—Interest on ordinary debt ...	1,08	1,13	—5

Expenditure.	Actuals, 1915-16.	Actuals, 1916-17.	Actuals, 1916-17, better (+) and worse (—) than 1915-16.
1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Salaries and expenses of Civil Departments—			
18.—General Administration ...	13,50	14,14	—64
19A.—Law and Justice—Courts ...	38,22	41,02	—280
19B.—Jails	14,21	14,23	—2
20.—Police	47,56	46,98	+58
21.—Ports and Pilotage	5	6	—1
22.—Education	35,74	36,87	—113
24A.—Medical	6,37	6,63	—26
24B.—Sanitation	3,27	2,55	+72
25.—Political	40	49	—9
26A.—Agriculture	4,74	4,52	+22
26B.—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.	22	29	—7
Total ...	1,64,28	1,67,78	—350
Miscellaneous Civil Charges—			
29.—Superannuation allowances and Pensions.	10,03	10,08	—5
30.—Stationery and Printing ...	659	660	—1
32.—Miscellaneous	132	135	—3
Total ...	17,94	18,03	—9
Famine Relief and Insurance—			
36.—Reduction or avoidance of debt ...	2,00	2,00	...
Irrigation—			
42.—Irrigation—Major Works—			
(*a*) Working expenses ...	759	726	+33
(*b*) Interest on debt ...	899	854	+45
43.—Minor Works and Navigation—			
(*a*) Civil	2	2	...
(*b*) Public Works Department...	140	122	+18
Total ...	18,00	17,04	+96
Other Public Works—			
45.—Civil Works—			
(*a*) Civil	759	14,25	—666
(*b*) Public Works Department	80,84	55,49	+25,35
Total ...	88,43	69,74	+18,69
Total expenditure ...	3,28,78	3,13,60	+15,18

416. *Receipts.*—In spite of considerably less contribution (994) from the Imperial revenues there was a net increase of 106 as compared with 1915-16. The chief increases were under Land Revenue (353), Stamps (312), Excise (191), Income-Tax (297), Jails (106), Civil Works—Public Works Department (51). The increase under Land Revenue was due to collection of arrears of revenue in Government Estates, that in Stamp revenue was due mainly to the establishment of the Patna High Court. The larger receipts under Income-Tax were chiefly due to enhanced rates of taxation. The increase in Jail receipts was due to larger demand for jail-made goods by the Military Department and that under Public Works to larger collection of rents from Government buildings. The most noticeable decreases were under Provincial rates (58), Law Courts (49) and Irrigation Major Works—Direct receipts (95). Since the surrender of the Public Works Cess to the District Boards, the receipts under Provincial rates are confined practically to the General rates levied from Wards Estates to cover approximately the cost of management including supervision charges and contribution for pensions and leave allowances of the staff employed on collection and valuation and revaluation. The variation in receipts is due to the release of old estates from management by the Wards Department. Variations.

Expenditure.—As compared with 1915-16 there was a net decrease of 15,18. The most noticeable decrease (25,35) was under Civil works in charge of Public Works Officers and was due to curtailment of the building programme. Considerable increases occurred under Forests (86), General Administration (64), Courts of Law (280), Education (113) and Civil Works in charge of Civil Officers (666). The increase under Forests was due to a payment of 72 to Raja Narpat Singh of Porahat on account of the profit from the Porahat forests for the last quinquennium. The increase under General Administration was due to the arrear pay drawn by a member of the Executive Council and purchase of furniture for the Government House at Patna and that under Courts of Law to the establishment of the Patna High Court. The increase under Civil Works in charge of Civil officers was due to larger grants to local bodies for sanitary and other improvements :—

Local Finance.

417. The following table shows the income and expenditure and the opening and closing balances of the various local funds in the Province for the year 1916-17 :— Balances.

(*In thousands of rupees.*)

Name of Fund.	Opening balance on 1st April 1916.	Receipts during the year.	Total.	Expenditure during the year.	Balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds ...	19,65	80,86	1,00,51	79,86	20,65
Union Funds	9	29	38	27	11
District Road Funds ...	1,20	3,78	4,98	193	3,05
District Chaukidari Reward Fund.	37	33	70	43	27
Chota Nagpur Chaukidari Fund.	1,12	4,73	5,85	4,70	1,15

Name of Fund.	Opening balance on 1st April 1916.	Receipts during the year.	Total.	Expenditure during the year.	Balance.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Road Patrol Fund ...	21	43	64	39	25
Pilgrim's Lodging House Fund	69	62	1,31	78	53
Cantonment Funds ...	4	37	41	35	6
Town and Bazar Funds ...	1	8	9	6	3
Education Funds ...	1	6	7	4	3
Medical and Charitable Funds	5	17	22	19	3
Jharia Mines Board of Health	33	58	91	61	30
Jharia Water Board ...	5,06	8,43	13,49	1,56	11,93
Khondmal Road Fund ...	1	6	7	6	1
Orissa Port Fund ...	...	11	11	11	...
Municipal Funds ...	8,60	20,71	29,31	22,16	715
Grand Total ...	37,44	1,21,61	1,59,05	1,13,50	45,55

The designation of the Village Chaukidari Reward Fund as given in the Report for 1915-16 has since been changed to Chota Nagpur Chaukidari Fund.

One addition only has been made to the number of Union Funds having banking transactions with treasuries. The large receipts of the Jharia Water Board include a loan of Rs. 6,00,000 from Government and a contribution of Rs. 77,000 from Provincial revenues. The present European War has told heavily on the resources of the Orissa Port Fund which have had to be supplemented by a regular contribution from Provincial Revenues every year. As compared with 1915-16 the aggregate receipts of the Local Funds increased considerably whereas expenditure declined during 1916-17. This explains the large increase in the closing balance.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Province of Bihar and Orissa for the year 1916-17.]

Rate at which levied.

418. Local Cess was levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the annual value of lands and the annual net profits of mines or other immovable property throughout the Province except in the districts of Angul and Sambalpur and the Kolhan Government Estate in the district of Singhbhum and the Damin-i-koh Government Estate in the Santal Parganas.

In Sambalpur the rates for the maintenance of roads, schools and post offices are levied in a single lump sum under the Central Provinces Local Self-Government Act and the demand for the year was Rs. 15,113 of which Rs. 15,112 were realized.

Collections and Demands.

419. The gross rental of the Province shows a total increase of Rs. 28,21,952. The current cess demand for the year was Rs. 57,29,977 against Rs. 55,08,649 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 2,21,328 which was mainly due to increased assessments as a result of revaluation operations in the districts of Patna, Shahabad, Cuttack and Balasore and partly to the assessment of Government estates at full rates under the orders of the Local Government. The actual collections amounted to Rs. 57,36,187 against Rs. 54,06,714 in the previous year, exclusive of remissions amounting to Rs. 32,083. The percentage of total collections on the current demand rose from 98·14 to 100·1 and eight districts against three in the preceding year attained the prescribed standard of a hundred per cent.

Working of the Certificate Procedure.

420. The number of certificates filed for the realization of cess arrears was 46,831 against 51,922 in the preceding year. Cases for disposal amounted to 62,459 as against 61,174 in 1915-16 including those at the close of the preceding year. 4,425 objections were filed against certificates as compared with 3,339 in 1915-16. Certificates had to be cancelled in 586 cases as compared with 346 in the previous year, mainly in Gaya and Muzaffarpur on account of non-liability of the judgment-debtors. Demands were paid on the issue of preliminary notices in 14,009 cases. Notices for the sale of movable and immovable properties induced payments in 21,961 and 5,535 cases respectively. Out of 487 cases in which property was actually sold, sales were subsequently set aside in 252 cases. Warrants of arrest proved effective in 11 cases in the Chota Nagpur Division, 39 cases in the Santal Parganas and 117 cases in Monghyr.

Valuations and Revaluations.

421. General revaluation operations were in progress in the districts of Shahabad and Puri, the work was completed in Shahabad and resulted in an addition of Rs. 95,677 to the cess demand. The operations under Chapter IIA of the Cess Act in the district of Hazaribagh continued. The provisions of section 46 (2) of the Cess Act which permit of opening of separate accounts in revenue-free estates, have not yet been extended to the Orissa Division. The high proportion of new accounts in revenue-free estates in Muzaffarpur continued, presumably as an offshoot of the recent revaluation operations. The only noteworthy feature in the statistics of estates are the increase in the number of rent-free lands in Patna from 1,190 to 3,133, as a result of the recent revaluation operations, the amalgamation in Cuttack with estates of all the eighty rent-free lands formerly directly assessed, and a decrease of 338 rent-free lands in Muzaffarpur.

Municipal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter III of the Report, "Municipalities".]

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bihar and Orissa, for the year 1916.—Statistics of British India, Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Climatic conditions.

422. The rainfall for the year was above normal in all parts of the Province, except Chota Nagpur, where it was slightly in defect. The monsoon began early and lasted longer than usual, and in general the rainfall was well distributed. Heavy floods were few and not of wide extent, and there was no great damage to crops of any serious nature, either by flood or by drought. The average price of common rice varied from 10·31 seers to the rupee in Angul, to 6·2 seers in Muzaffarpur. In most districts it was eight seers or more.

Vital Statistics.

423. The year on the whole was not an unhealthy one, in spite of the increase in the death-rate, as epidemic diseases were not unduly prevalent. The birth-rate was 36·6 as compared with 40·4 in 1915 and 42·3 in 1914. The average birth-rate of the last ten years was 40·2. The death-rate was 32·8 per mille, which was below the average of the decade but higher than either of the two previous years.

Registration of Vital occurrences.

424. The registration of vital statistics is still far from satisfactory, and the differences in the returns for individual districts are often due largely to their varying degrees of accuracy: it is, for instance, certain that a great part of the difference between the reported birth-rates in Palamau and Singhbhum (45·4 and 27·8 per mille respectively) must be due to the incomplete nature of the returns for the latter district. In some of the larger towns an effort has recently been made to introduce a special system of check by the Health Officers. As a rule, the results have been disappointing, but the work done at a few places, notably at Cuttack, shows what can be accomplished in this direction if suitable measures are taken.

Cholera.

425. The death-rate from cholera was slightly in excess of that in the previous year, but was less than the average of the last ten years. Epidemics due to excessive rainfall and floods occurred in the northern parts of the districts which lie along the frontier of Nepal, but they were not very serious or of long duration.

Small-pox.

426. The mortality from small-pox was ·3 per mille. This was about the same as the decennial average, but there was an improvement as compared with 1915, especially in the Patna Division, where special efforts have been made during the last two years to improve vaccination work.

Fevers.

427. By far the largest number of deaths was due to fever, the death-rate under this head being 21·5 per mille of the population, as compared with 20·2 in the previous year, and a decennial average of 20·6. As usual, the rate was highest in Purnea and the other districts adjoining the Nepal *terai*. There was a severe outbreak of a malignant type of malaria in the Jharia coal-field and in the adjoining thanas of Manbhum and the Santal Parganas.

The proposed investigation of malaria in the hyperendemic areas of the *terai* and among the *ghats* and foot hills of the Chota Nagpur plateau and the Santal Parganas cannot be undertaken at present owing to the absence of trained officers, but experimental anti-malarial measures will shortly be undertaken in the Katihar Municipality and in part of the police thana of Kishanganj in the district of Purnea.

The three malarial lecturers were employed in the districts of Shahabad, Purnea, and Cuttack as in previous years, and the results of their work are reported to be satisfactory.

The facilities for obtaining quinine were extended and the number of agents for its sale increased, with the result that the consumption rose from 649lbs. in the previous year to 962lbs. The experiment of administering quinine to Government servants in the Purnea District was discontinued, as the results were indefinite and unsatisfactory. The popular objection to the prophylactic use of quinine is still strong.

428. The death-rate from plague was the same as that of the last year, viz., ·7 as compared with 1·8 in 1914, and the decennial average of 1·3. The disease has not shown any tendency to spread outside the endemic area, and, so far as can be judged from the statistics, it appears to be slowly diminishing in virulence and prevalence. With the exception of evacuation, to which the people generally resort of their own accord as soon as an epidemic occurs, none of the measures for the prevention of plague have met with much success. Inoculation is unpopular, and it has been found impossible to carry out destruction of rats on a scale sufficient materially to reduce their numbers. **Plague.**

429. The death-rate from dysentery and diarrhœa was ·8 as compared with ·9 in 1915, and ·9 the average figure of the last ten years. **Dysentery and diarrhœa.**

As usual, the highest mortality was in the districts of Cuttack (4·6) and Puri (4·9).

The towns which recorded the highest death-rates from these diseases were again as in the previous year : Sambalpur (9·9), Puri (7·3) and Jajpur (6·9).

430. The mortality from respiratory diseases was ·2 as compared with the decennial average of ·1. **Respiratory diseases.**

The districts of Puri and Sambalpur again recorded the highest mortality under this head, viz., 1·6 and 1·3 respectively.

INLAND EMIGRATION.

431. During the year under report no recruitment for Assam took place in the Tirhut Division, nor in the districts of Patna, Bhagalpur and Purnea. The Act is not in force in Angul. Elsewhere the only legal form of recruitment is that conducted in accordance with Chapter IV of the Act or the provisions of section 91. The total number of emigrants recruited from the Province was 35,883 as compared with 94,911 in 1915-16 and 40,322 in 1914-15. There was a general falling off in emigration from almost every recruiting district, the decrease being most marked in Cuttack, Balasore and Sambalpur, and the districts of Chota Nagpur. The supply of emigrant labour to the tea-gardens was very seriously affected by the recruitment of coolies by the Civil and Military Departments in connection with the war, as the terms offered for recruitment for the Mesopotamia and France Labour Corps were more attractive than those offered by the tea-gardens. Valuable assistance was rendered by some of the local agents in recruiting for the Military Department. **Administrative measures.**

The only change in the rules under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act was an amendment of Rule 24 of the rules under section 116-F, issued by the Government of India with their Notification No. 295-132-C, dated the 20th November 1915. Under the old rule the Superintendent of Emigration in each district was required to furnish the Chairman of the Assam Labour Board with monthly statements, showing the total number of persons recruited or engaged as labourers or assisted to emigrate by each local agent or employer, and the number of persons despatched to each tea-garden in the labour districts. The intention of the rule was that the returns of Superintendents of Emigration should afford an independent check on the levy of the cess on emigrants. The responsibility of checking the payments on account of cess by the local agents has now been placed upon the Board's Supervisors, and the Superintendents of Emigration are only required to furnish returns relating to emigrants recruited by garden sardars not working under a local agent. As the system of recruitment by garden sardars working independently of a local agent has almost disappeared, Superintendents of Emigration will now be practically relieved of the duty of furnishing the return.

It was stated in last year's report that it was hoped that the rules to regulate recruitment in Native States would soon be ready for issue. A set of draft rules has now been drawn up by the Political Agent of the Orissa Feudatory States in consultation with some of the Chiefs, and the Indian Tea Association has been consulted regarding them. The opinion of the Association is now under consideration.

In their annual report for 1915-16, the Assam Labour Board proposed that they should be given a right of veto on the appointment of local agents whom they considered undesirable. It has been decided that for the present all cases in which Superintendents of Emigration are unable to accept the adverse recommendations of the Board in the matter of granting licenses to local agents shall be submitted by them, together with the Board's statement of the case to the Local Government, for final orders. The Commissioners of the Orissa and the Chota Nagpur Divisions have been asked to watch the working of this system and to submit a report after a year, when the question will be further considered.

The Assam Labour Board brought to the notice of Government a case in which two coolies were brought from Assam to Singhbhum under a warrant of arrest to give evidence against a sardar charged with a purely technical offence. District Officers have been directed to give a careful consideration to cases in which it is proposed to bring back emigrants to give evidence against sardars committing a breach of the recruiting rules. It is the policy of Government to encourage legitimate sardari recruitment through approved Associations, and ill-advised action of this nature is likely to prejudice recruiting and to exasperate the Tea Industry.

Under section 91 of the Act the provisions of some of the sections of the Act were relaxed in the case of garden sardars working under the control of local agents subject to certain restrictions. Some of these restrictions have been again considered ; and upon the suggestion of the Chairman of the Assam Labour Board Government have decided that local agents should be no longer required to submit to the District Magistrates a monthly copy of Register II since the daily list from the same register is already submitted. The Local Government have also accepted the suggestion of the Chairman that emigrants and their friends should have free access to the places of accommodation for recruits. The attention of Government was drawn by the Magistrate of Cuttack to a system practised by sardars in his district of sending their relatives to recruit for them whilst they themselves remained in Cuttack. The practice is a most objectionable one, as it would lead to a revival of the old abuses of the *arkatti* system. The Assam Labour Board have been addressed on the subject.

The reports generally show that the places of accommodation were maintained in good sanitary condition and that there was no outbreak of any epidemic disease in them.

Criminal cases.

432. The number of criminal cases in which emigrants were complainants and the number of persons convicted fell from 85 and 91 in 1915-16 to 66 and 79, respectively, in 1916-17.

Receipts and charges.

433. There were practically no receipts in connection with the transport of labour during the year under report. The charges were Rs. 1,757 against Rs. 1,709 in the preceding year.

Medical Institutions.

[Annual returns of Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1916 with notes.—Statistics of British India, Part V.—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Number of dispensaries.

434. The year 1916 opened with 366 hospitals and dispensaries of all classes and closed with 387 institutions—a net increase of 21. Of these 15 were opened by local bodies, two were private-aided, one private non-aided and six Railway hospitals. Of the three closed during the year, two were Railway dispensaries

and one private non-aided. The work of the regular dispensaries was supplemented by an increasing number of peripatetic dispensaries of which there were 20 during the year. These travelling dispensaries are especially useful in reaching places otherwise inaccessible to medical relief and enabling doctors to visit the poor in their homes. The total number of patients treated by these dispensaries declined from 81,712 in 1915 to 69,852 during the year under report. The decrease was due to some of the medical subordinates being deputed to special duty and some being on leave without being replaced. Besides the separate peripatetic dispensaries, the system of deputing medical officers in charge of dispensaries to visit periodically the neighbouring places of gathering, such as fairs, markets and *hâts* was continued. The number treated fell from 80,088 in 1915 to 79,441 during the year, the slight decrease being due to the closure of two dispensaries by the District Board of Champaran on the opening of two travelling dispensaries.

435. Following the enactment of the Medical Acts in Bombay, Madras and Bengal, the Local Government have during the year passed a similar Act for Bihar and Orissa, and a Council of Medical Registration has been formed. **Council of Medical Registration.**

436. As a consequence of the enactment of the Indian Medical Degrees Act, the Local Government have established an Examination Board authorized under section 3 of the Act. **Medical Examination Board.**

437. During the year 3,463,145 patients were treated as compared with 3,446,782 in 1915. Of these 50,625 were in-door patients and 3,412,520 out-door patients against 50,487, and 3,396,295 respectively in the previous year. The statistics bear clear testimony to the good work of the medical officers and also to the appreciation of their efforts by the people themselves. **Number of patients treated.**

438. The mortality statistics show that the year was slightly less healthy than 1915, the death-rate per mille among the general population having risen from 32·2 to 32·8. The largest number of cases treated was for Malaria (706,622), the next largest being for diseases of the Eye (187,555). The sale of quinine has increased greatly, and it is hoped that the prejudice against the use of this drug will eventually disappear altogether. **Diseases treated.**

439. The total income of the medical institutions amounted to Rs. 16,69,916 and the expenditure to Rs. 11,70,861. Of the total receipts Government contributed Rs. 2,24,655, District Boards Rs. 4,53,624, Municipalities Rs. 1,21,308, other local funds Rs. 70,197, while sums amounting to Rs. 1,12,038 were obtained from subscriptions and donations and Rs. 12,513 from invested capital. A sum of Rs. 6,49,000 was contributed by the Bettiah Estate and invested in Government Securities for the maintenance of the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital at Bettiah. **Finance.**

440. The number of students on the roll of the Medical Schools at Bankipore and at Cuttack were 131 and 156, respectively, as compared with 98 and 165 during the preceding year. **Medical Schools.**

441. The number of lepers treated in the eight leper asylums of the Province was 1,337 against 1,288 in 1915. The total expenditure incurred for their upkeep was Rs. 87,207 against Rs. 87,656 in the preceding year. Of this sum Government contributed 26·0 per cent, the local bodies 7·3 per cent, the rest of the income being derived from private subscriptions and donations and from contributions from the Mission to Lepers. Orders have issued for the acquisition of land for a new leper asylum at Cuttack, and the construction of the building will be taken up next year. **Leper Asylums.**

Lunatic Asylum.

[Annual returns of the Patna Lunatic Asylum at Bankipore in Bihar and Orissa with brief notes for the year 1916.]

442. At the commencement of the year there were 268 males and 41 females under treatment in the Patna Lunatic Asylum. The total number of **Population, admission and discharge.**

admissions during the year was 71 males and 17 females. The number discharged was 51 males and 9 females, while the number of deaths was 32 males and 3 females, so that the population at the close of the year was 256 males and 46 females. Owing to the financial stringency it has not been possible to complete the new Indian Lunatic Asylum at Ranchi. Pending its construction the Local Government are doing all that is possible to improve the unsatisfactory condition of the Patna Asylum. The Central Lunatic Asylum for Europeans is nearing completion and will be opened shortly.

Finance.

443. The total receipts of the Patna Asylum under all heads aggregated Rs. 35,397 against Rs. 63,478 in 1915. The decrease was due partly to the falling off in the average strength, but mainly to diminished expenditure on Public Works, diet and contingent charges.

Sanitation.

[Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bihar and Orissa, for the year 1916.]

Sanitary improvements.

444. The expenditure incurred on Sanitation by the Municipalities and the District Boards in the Province was Rs. 15,18,554 and Rs. 4,32,028, respectively, in 1915-16, against Rs. 14,77,094 and Rs. 3,71,868 in 1914-15. The conservancy schemes of forty-nine municipalities out of the total of fifty-five in the Province have been completed and the remaining six will be completed this year.

During the year a Sanitary Works Division was constituted in charge of Mr. Alexander, Assistant Sanitary Engineer, for the execution of the extensive sanitary works in progress in Patna, Bankipore, and Patna City. Several works of special interest were designed, and in some cases executed, during the year, chief amongst them being the Government House and High Court sewage disposal works and the Puri pumping experiment.

Model rules for Sanitary Inspectors.

445. A set of model rules and standard forms for the guidance of Sanitary Inspectors in municipalities was issued during the year.

Sanitary Laboratory.

446. The work of the Sanitary Laboratory at Gulzarbagh was greatly impeded by the fact that for over seven months there was no analyst or assistant, and during this period the work was carried out as an additional duty by the Superintendent of the Sanitary School. The new analyst, Dr. K. N. Bagchi, who was under training for a year in the laboratory of the Chemical Examiner, Bengal, joined his appointment in December last. The Gulzarbagh laboratory is now in working order.

Redistribution of Deputy Sanitary Commissioners' Circles.

447. A scheme for the redistribution of the jurisdiction of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioners' Circles was sanctioned with effect from the 1st April 1917 and the existing circles (Bihar, Chota Nagpur, and Orissa) have been renamed South Bihar, North Bihar, and Chota Nagpur and Orissa with headquarters at Bankipore, Muzaffarpur, and Nankum, Ranchi. The North Bihar Circle includes the Tirhut and the Bhagalpur Divisions, the South Bihar Circle includes the Patna Division and the districts of Hazaribagh and Palamau, and the Chota Nagpur and Orissa Circle includes the Division of Orissa and the remaining three districts of Chota Nagpur.

Sanitary Survey.

448. Little progress could be made with the scheme for carrying out a complete Sanitary Survey of the Province, which was prepared last year, owing to the lack of funds and of the necessary trained staff. But that part of it was taken up which deals with the survey of the larger towns in the Province and the Deputy Sanitary Commissioners were instructed to make surveys of two large towns each, viz., Patna, Gaya, Ranchi, Bhagalpur, Cuttack, and Puri. This work was begun during the year but has not yet been completed.

Vaccination.

[Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bihar and Orissa, for the year 1916 and Triennial Report on Vaccination, Bihar and Orissa, for the years 1914-15, 1915-16 and 1916-17.]

Small-pox and Vaccination.

449. The ratio of mortality from small-pox was ·3 which was lower by ·1 than the ratio of the previous year and was about the same as the decennial

average. The disease broke out in more or less epidemic form in Darbhanga, Angul, Hazaribagh and Sambalpur, and steps were taken to arrest the progress of the disease by vaccination and revaccination by means of vaccinators specially deputed for the purpose in the affected thanas. There was no death from small-pox in 15 out of 55 towns in which vaccination was compulsory. Acts V of 1880 and II of 1911 making vaccination compulsory have been extended to Padma, in the district of Hazaribagh.

The total number of operations performed by all agencies during the year under report was 1,090,434 against 1,288,419 in the previous year. The average of the three years (1914-15 to 1916-17) was 1,227,012. Of the total number of operations, 1,046,154 were primary and the remaining 44,280 were revaccinations. The percentage of successful operations was 97·27 against 97·23 in 1915-16. The decrease in the number of operations was most marked in the Bhagalpur and the Orissa Divisions. Efforts are being made to effect an improvement. An increase in the number of vaccinators and in the issue of vaccine has already been arranged.

The Vaccine Depôt at Nankum, which at first was far from successful, has been thoroughly reorganized with most satisfactory results. The difficulties in the way of obtaining calves have been surmounted, while the number required has been reduced by an improvement in the methods of utilizing them, whereby more than double the amount of vaccine is obtained from each calf. These measures have resulted in a considerable reduction in the working cost of the depôt.

The Poisons Act.

450. Rules under section 5 of the Poisons Act for regulating the possession of white arsenic have been published, and for the present have been enforced as an experimental measure in the districts of Darbhanga, Monghyr, Purnea, and Bhagalpur only. **Working of the Poisons Act.**

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CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PART II, PAGES 220—225.

Education.

[Report on the Progress of Education in Bihar and Orissa for 1916-17.—Statistics of British India, Part VII.—Education.]

General statistics.

451. The total expenditure on Public Instruction during the year under review was Rs. 81,52,080. The direct expenditure amounted to Rs. 58,65,006 and the indirect expenditure to Rs. 22,87,074. Of the direct expenditure Rs. 4,55,595 was spent on colleges, Rs. 17,13,017 on secondary schools, Rs. 27,61,746 on primary schools and Rs. 9,34,648 on training and other special schools. Of the indirect expenditure more than twelve lakhs was spent on buildings and purchase of furniture and apparatus, six lakhs on direction and inspection, more than a lakh on scholarships, two lakhs on hostels and about a lakh and a half on miscellaneous charges. In British territory alone there were 29,632 institutions attended by 845,025 scholars which represent 16·3 per cent of the total population of school-going age. The number of male pupils was 733,637 or 28·9 per cent of the male population of school-going age and of the female pupils 111,388 or 4·2 per cent of the female population of school-going age.

There were 1,542 institutions with 89,610 pupils in urban areas and 25,304 schools with 706,767 pupils in rural areas. The total direct expenditure on the former amounted to Rs. 23,15,733 and on the latter Rs. 34,29,502. The figures exclude private institutions and European schools.

Of the sum of Rs. 81,52,081 an amount of Rs. 2,12,763 was spent on European schools to which provincial revenues contributed Rs. 85,925 while the remaining sum of Rs. 79,39,317 spent on Indian Education was contributed as follows :—

	Rs.
Provincial Revenues	28,71,832
District funds	15,73,599
Municipal funds	1,72,748
Fees	21,78,696
Other sources	11,42,442
Total ...	79,39,317

University.

452. The most notable event of the year was the inauguration of a local University at Patna. Before the close of the year a site west of the Capital was acquired for the building of the University and its constituent colleges at a cost of nearly three lakhs of rupees. The Bill which was introduced in the Imperial Legislative Council in September 1916, for the purpose of constituting the new University has since been passed into law.

Arts colleges.

453. There were seven Arts Colleges in the Province of which three are managed by Government, namely, the Patna College, the Ravenshaw College and the Greer Bhumihar Brahman College. St. Columba's College, the Bihar National College and the Tej Narayan Jubilee College are aided institutions while the Diamond Jubilee College is unaided. The total number of students

rose from 2,415 in 1915-16 to 2,575 in 1916-17 but the total expenditure fell from Rs. 3,99,151 to Rs. 3,99,090. The expenditure from provincial revenues, however, rose from Rs. 2,34,483 to Rs. 2,44,510. All except the Diamond Jubilee College made steady progress.

The additions to the staff and buildings have rendered the Patna College capable of teaching 510 students while the maximum number on the rolls during the year was 455 against 410 in 1915-16. The total number of students was 382 on the 31st March 1917, against 370 on the same date of the previous year and the average monthly roll number rose from 389 to 405. The direct expenditure declined from Rs. 1,32,592 to Rs. 1,28,403, the cost per student being Rs. 317 against Rs. 340-13-8. The college library contains 10,974 volumes. The special grant mentioned in the last year's review has greatly improved the collection of books on History and Economics.

At the Ravenshaw College the number of students on the 31st March 1917, was 475 as compared with 484 on the same date of 1916. The direct expenditure declined from Rs. 1,14,177 to Rs. 1,13,796 but the cost per student increased from Rs. 229-11-9 to Rs. 233-3-0.

The Greer Bhumihar Brahman College had a roll of 270 students on the 31st March 1917, against 292 on the same date of the previous year. The direct expenditure rose from Rs. 34,629 to Rs. 36,871, the cost per student increasing from Rs. 116-3-3 to Rs. 128-0-5.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

The number of secondary schools for boys rose from 316 to 326, their pupils from 54,694 to 58,149 and the direct expenditure from Rs. 12,82,502 to Rs. 13,74,832.

The number of high schools increased from 94 to 100, the pupils from 32,392 to 34,734 and the expenditure from Rs. 9,29,733 to Rs. 9,85,724. The percentage of pupils at high school stage was 34·3 against 32·7 and the average annual fee rose slightly from Rs. 21·2 to Rs. 21·8. The six high schools recognized during the year were the aided High School at Muzaffarpur, the Nagendrabala Academy at Chapra, the Preparatory School at Monghyr, the Moslem Seminary at Cuttack, the Victoria Satyabadi High School near Puri and the Dhanbad High School. The new buildings, which were shown in progress last year, have been completed during the year under review.

For Middle English Schools for boys the figures were 226 schools, 23,415 pupils and Rs. 3,89,108 expenditure as compared with 222 schools, 22,302 pupils and Rs. 3,52,769 expenditure, respectively. The percentage of pupils in the middle stage was 27·7, the same as during the previous year and the average annual fee rose from Rs. 7·4 to Rs. 8·2.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

The total number of Primary Schools for boys increased from 21,351 to 23,404 and that of their pupils from 602,734 to 657,980 and the expenditure from Rs. 24,84,045 to Rs. 27,35,234. The figures include also recognized *maktabs* and Sanskrit Patshalas which are shown as primary schools owing to a change of classification.

The number of Middle Vernacular Schools rose from 125 to 130, their pupils from 11,034 to 11,635 and the expenditure from Rs. 1,46,586 to Rs. 1,48,764.

The number of Upper Primary Schools rose from 1,687 to 1,729, the pupils from 88,698 to 91,471. The number of Lower Primary Schools increased from 19,539 to 20,429 and that of their pupils from 503,002 to 527,746.

454. The number of students in the Patna Training College which had been raised to 40 in 1915 was cut down last year to 20 owing to financial stringency. The expenditure declined from Rs. 41,633 to Rs. 30,117 but the cost of training each student increased from Rs. 1,040 to Rs. 1,585-1-8. **Training of Teachers.**

The number of First Grade Training Schools remained unchanged but that of their pupils declined from 380 to 372. The number of training schools for *gurus* and for Muhammadan teachers and that of their pupils also remained unchanged. The total cost of training schools in the Province amounted to Rs. 2,55,664 of which Rs. 2,41,956 was met from provincial revenues. The average cost for training a master in a first grade training school was Rs. 201-11-6 and in a training school for *gurus* or Muhammadan teachers Rs. 99-6-8.

Law Colleges.

455. The number of students in the Patna Law College rose from 139 to 202 in the B. L. classes and from 35 to 46 in the Pleadership classes.

In the Pleadership class at Bhagalpur the number of students rose from 21 to 31, while in that at Cuttack the number fell from 18 to 12.

Medical, Engineering, Surveying and other schools.

456. Including figures for medical schools the total number of technical and professional schools during the year under review was 47, their pupils 1,831 and the direct expenditure Rs. 2,41,124.

In the medical school at Bankipore the number of students increased from 77 to 130 while in that at Cuttack the number fell from 132 to 127. The expenditure on the former increased from Rs. 45,854 to Rs. 48,151, while in the latter the expenditure declined from Rs. 31,971 to Rs. 31,274.

There are three weaving schools in the Province at Bihar, Cuttack and Sambalpur. The total number of students in these schools was 53 and the expenditure Rs. 8,975.

The number of students on the rolls of the Bihar School of Engineering rose from 155 to 166 and the direct expenditure from Rs. 73,162 to Rs. 78,480. The percentage of success in the last Overseer and Sub-Overseer examinations was remarkably high, the figures being 95 and 84·2 per cent, respectively, or considerably higher than those of other institutions examined by the Joint Technical Examination Board. The proposal for the improvement of the school is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

The artisan classes attached to the school proved successful and the number of applications for admission was very large. But the condition of the survey classes was not very hopeful. Admissions are limited to 50 but the number of students admitted last year was 14 only.

The Ranchi Industrial School had 111 pupils in 1916-17 against 112 in 1915-16. The expenditure rose from Rs. 16,199 to Rs. 16,773. At the Sub-Overseer examination out of six students four passed.

The state of affairs in the Cuttack Survey School was the same as that noticed at the Survey classes attached to the Bihar School of Engineering. The number of students was 13 only though 45 can be admitted in the first year class. The expenditure was Rs. 8,436. The scheme for raising the status of the school to that of an Engineering College is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

The number of commercial schools rose from 4 to 5 but that of their pupils declined from 124 to 118.

All the five lace schools were in the Chota Nagpur Division. The number of pupils was 338 girls and two boys against 312 girls in 1915-16, while the expenditure was Rs. 8,860 against Rs. 9,627.

The number of technical schools or artisan schools was 21 of which 12 were in Tirhut, 3 in Orissa and 16 in Chota Nagpur. The total number of students in these was 395 and the expenditure Rs. 29,357.

Education of Indian Girls or Women.

457. The number of institutions for girls declined from 2,845 to 2,609 and that of the girls attending them from 65,747 to 61,406. There was thus a decrease of 236 in the number of institutions, while the number of pupils fell by 4,341. The number of girls in boys' schools declined from 50,586 to 49,495. There was thus a net decrease of 5,432 girls in schools. The expenditure on public institutions for girls was Rs. 4,31,241, the contribution from provincial revenues being Rs. 1,52,232, from District funds Rs. 1,65,734, from Municipal funds Rs. 19,213, from fees Rs. 11,003 and from other sources Rs. 83,059.

The number of students in the intermediate classes attached to the Ravenshaw Girls' School at Cuttack was eight, and two girls were sent up for the Intermediate examination of whom one passed.

The number of high schools remained unchanged but that of the girls attending them rose from 325 to 330 and the cost from Rs. 48,034 to Rs. 49,870. The Ravenshaw Girls' School had 157 pupils, while the schools at Bankipore and Giridih had 97 and 76, respectively, on the rolls.

The number of Middle English Schools also remained unaltered but that of their pupils rose from 589 to 679.

The number of Middle Vernacular Schools increased from 10 to 11 and their pupils from 889 to 1,243.

It has been shown above that the number of girls' schools and that of the girls attending them decreased by 236 and 5,432 respectively and that the figures for High and Middle Schools remained unchanged. The decrease in the number of Schools for girls and that of the girls in schools was, therefore, confined generally to Primary schools only. This was due to the fact that more liberal stipends being at present given in girls' schools than in boys' schools, a number of teachers started girls' schools in the hope of receiving stipends from District Boards, but as stipends could not be granted to them owing to the inadequacy of funds most of these schools were closed.

The number of training classes rose from 7 to 8, the pupils from 113 to 137 and the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 33,583. Besides the five lace schools in Chota Nagpur in the year 1916-17 a lace and embroidery school for *pardanashin* women was established in connexion with the Badshah Nawab Razvi Training College at a total cost of Rs. 1,890 a year.

458. The number of recognized European Schools remained 19 but that of their pupils fell from 1,125 to 1,094 and the expenditure from Rs. 2,58,228 to Rs. 2,12,763. **European Schools.**

459. The number of Muhammadan students in Arts Colleges dropped from 551 to 505 but in the secondary schools their number rose from 8,536 to 8,901. The number of recognized *maktabs* rose from 2,361 with 57,602 pupils to 2,403 with 60,321 pupils. The number of recognized Madrasas rose from 15 to 16 and their pupils from 1,266 to 1,329. **Muhammadan education.**

460. The number of recognized Sanskrit *tols* remained 359 but that of their pupils declined from 10,292 to 10,219. **Sanskrit education.**

During the year the Dharma Samaj Sanskrit School at Muzaffarpur was provincialized and the new buildings which were erected at a cost of nearly a lakh of rupees were formally opened by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. The school has now been designated a College and is managed by a Governing Body of five members with the Commissioner of the Division as President. The subjects taught are Vyakaran, Nyaya, Sankhya, Kabya, Mimansa, Smriti, Jyotish and Ayurveda, besides English and Hindi literature.

461. The number of students in the Reformatory School at Hazaribagh was 459 in 1916-17 against 461 last year. Of the former 290 came from Bengal, 17 from Assam and the remaining 152 belonged to this Province. The direct expenditure fell from Rs. 1,23,035 to Rs. 1,19,060. **Reformatory School.**

462. The number of hostels rose from 468 to 469 but that of their inmates fell from 14,455 to 14,282. **Hostels.**

463. The arrangements with the Young Men's Christian Association at Calcutta for the training of drill masters still continued. **Physical Training.**

Literature and the Press.

[Statistics of British India, Part VII.—Educational.]

464. The total number of Hindi books published during the year 1916-17 was 169 against 262 during the previous year. The bulk of these consisted of school books, and works on mythology, religion and miscellaneous subjects. **Publications registered.**

Among these, the only book worth special notice is "Todd's Rajasthan, Volume II ", a Hindi translation of Colonel James Todd's History of Rajputana. Thirty-eight books were published in Urdu against 42 during the previous year. The majority of these consisted of works on religion and miscellaneous subjects. None of these calls for any special notice. The total number of Oriya books published during the year was 378 against 498 during the previous year. Most of these consisted of lyrics, school books and works on mythology, religion, poetry and miscellaneous subjects. Two of these books are deserving of notice (1) " Pallichitra " which is a beautiful description of village life in Orissa and (2) " Utkal Sahityar Itihas " (A History of Oriya Literature).

Newspapers.

465. The newspapers and periodicals in circulation during the year numbered 60, as compared with 55 in 1915 and 60 in 1914. Nine new papers were started while four unimportant publications ceased to issue. Sixteen newspapers and periodicals were published in English only, the *Beharee* produced both English and Vernacular Editions, and the remaining papers were published in the vernacular.

The chief centres of press activity are Patna and Bankipore and the 13 newspapers published here include the most important. Of the rest, 12 were published in the Tirhut Division and 18 in Orissa.

The tone of the Press continued to be loyal and moderate. All the papers recognized the importance of avoiding the discussion of controversial questions during the war. While, however, there were many articles that might be considered objectionable in the general sense of the word, it was found necessary to issue only five warnings to newspapers ; of these that administered to the *Beharee* was for publishing a report calculated to cause alarm and not for any seditious or offensive comment ; and in the other cases it was indiscreet rather than malicious writing that called for rebuke.

Scientific and Literary Societies in Bihar and Orissa.

SEE—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1911-12, PAGE 229.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

466. Owing to the absence of Dr. Spooner, the local Superintendent of Archæological Survey, to officiate as Director-General of Archæology, there was no further progress in the excavations at Bulandi-Bagh (Pataliputra) which had been undertaken on behalf of Sir Ratan Tata. **Pataliputra excavations.**

467. At Nalanda considerable progress has been made in the excavations. It can now be demonstrated that upon the main site which has been opened up in the excavations, four separate and successive monasteries had been erected through a series of centuries, each being erected over the ruins of the previous one and the second in date enveloping the oldest. **Nalanda excavations.**

Two brick structures with the appearance of artificial caves with arched ceilings carried out in brick masonry have been unearthed. It appears that in the original monastery the verandah around the central court was at one time lined with sculptures which, from the fragments now recovered, seem to have been of very great excellence and beauty. A large collection of inscribed seals and numerous small statues in both stone and metal have been discovered and also a fairly large metal column with an elaborate capital showing a lion above an elephant. The balance of the Royal Asiatic Society's gift of £218 was expended during the year.

468. The amount spent by the Local Government on conservation was Rs. 15,360. Besides annual repairs to various monuments, some special work was done in connexion with the tomb of Bukhtyar Khan at Chainpur, the temple of Rohtas in the Shahabad district, the rock sculptures at Patharghata, and the rock temple at Colgong in the Bhagalpur district. **Conservation.**

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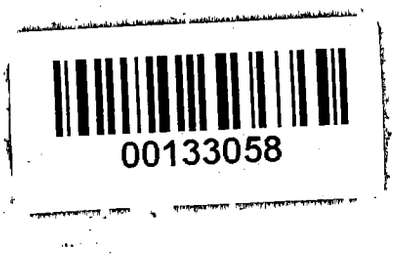
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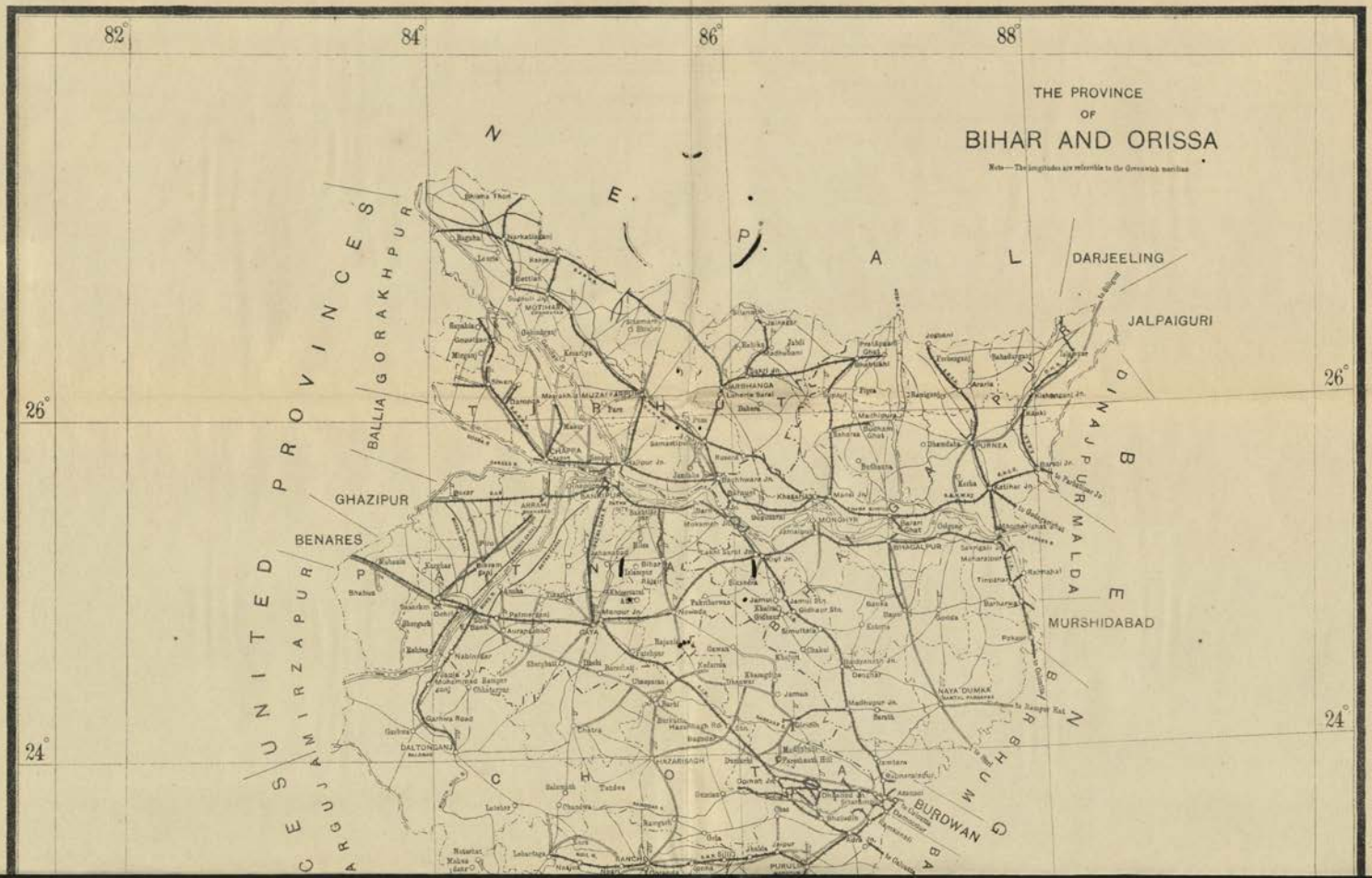
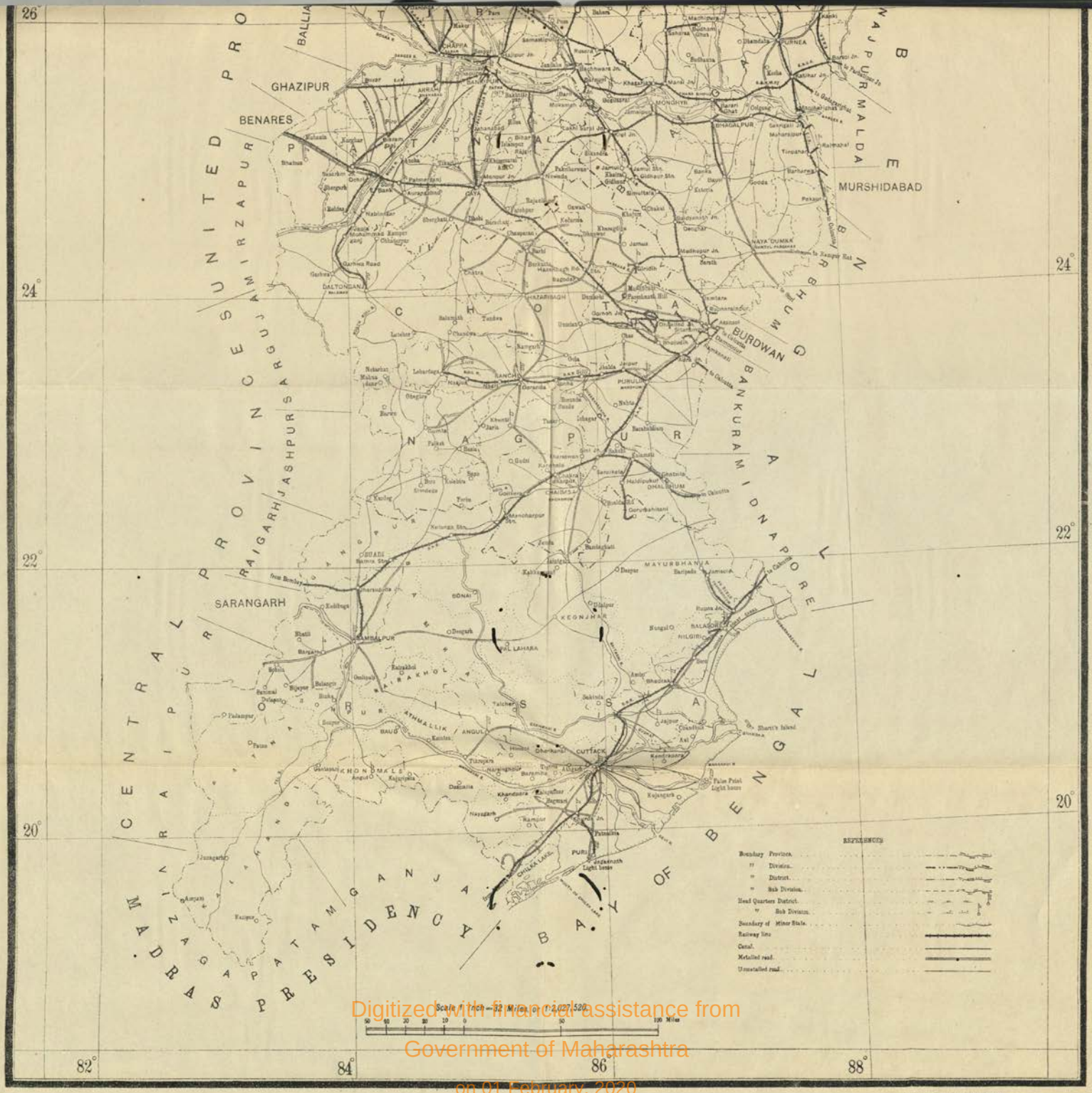

THE PROVINCE
OF
BIHAR AND ORISSA
Note—The longitudes are reckoned from the Greenwich meridian
82°
84°
86°
88°
26°
24°
N E P A L
DARJEELING
JALPAIGURI
BALLIA
GORAKHPUR
GHAZIPUR
BENARES
MIRZAPUR
PURNEA
MALDA
MURSHIDABAD
BURDWAN
BANKURA
MOTIHARI
MUZAFFARPUR
CHAPRA
DARBHANGA
MONGHYR
BHAGALPUR
GAYA
DALTONGANJ
HAZARIBAGH
RANCHI
PURULIA
NAYA DUMKA



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